■ METRO / A15

Manila court issues hold order versus Jaylo

■ WORLD / A9

Turk who attempted to kill Pope John Paul II freed after 20 years in jail

■ WORLD / A7

362 pilgrims dead in hajj stampede in Saudi Arabia

■ PROPERTY / B2-1

Property forecast: More investments from OFWs to continue in '06

All in the family: 2 sons tagged in Iloilo murders

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—POLICE ON FRIDAY TAGGED Archie and John Michael Tan, sons of slain businessman Francisco Tan, for the murder of their father, stepmother and 6-year-old half sister on Jan. 8.

ALL/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Fishers nix DENR opening coastal areas to investors

By Blanche S. Rivera

FISHERFOLK AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS yesterday expressed fears that a new order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources allowing the 25-year lease of idle coastal areas throughout the country to big investors could displace small fishermen.

FISHERS/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, January 14, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 37 P18
website: www.inq7.net

FVR sticks to ultimatum

JDV behind 'no-election' provision, critics say

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION AND OPPOSITION members of the House of Representatives yesterday pointed to Speaker Jose de Venecia as the brains behind the proposal to scrap the 2007 elections (No-El).

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto "Jing" Paras, Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales and a Lakas lawmaker who asked to remain anonymous told the INQUIRER that De Venecia had a hand in the Malacañang-created Consultative Commission's call for the scrapping of next year's polls to pave the way for a unicameral parliament in 2010.

De Venecia phoned the INQUIRER last night to deny the accusation.

"The No-El proposal is clearly a moral issue for congressmen, senators, governors, mayors and councilors whose term will be extended up to 2010," he said.

"There's a major conflict of interest. We can't take [the] high moral ground with moral issues hanging," the Speaker said, stressing that he and President Macapagal-Arroyo had nothing to do with it.

He noted that the No-El was "approved overwhelmingly" by the ConCom members, with only two or three members going against the majority decision.

A lawmaker belonging to Lakas claimed that De Venecia called up several members of ConCom "and prevailed upon them to insert the No-El provision."

JDV BEHIND/ A6

CHAD CARPENTER
DANIEL SMITH

REM ZAMORA

JUST DO IT NOW. Handcuffs each bearing the name of 4 US Marines accused of the Subic rape are carried by cause-oriented groups at their rally at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Because of its diplomatic implications, the arrest orders will be served on the US Embassy by the DFA.

Says no deal made for GMA to stay until 2010

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THEY COULD NOT EVEN AGREE on what they agreed on. If any.

Former President Fidel Ramos yesterday stood firm on his position that President Macapagal-Arroyo should cut her term by 2007, disputing claims that a formula had been struck allowing her to stay on until 2010 but with clipped powers.

Ramos sent out this message through his media officer, Ed Malay, to correct "inaccuracies" about what transpired during his dinner meeting with Ms Arroyo at her Forbes Park residence on Wednesday night.

Sources in Ramos' own Lakas-CMD party and in Malacañang previously said Ms Arroyo had agreed on a "win-win" formula under which she would hang on to the presidency with diminished powers until 2010.

A statement sent to the INQUIRER by Malay said Ramos "denied all claims that appeared in the media, stressing that many of these were inaccurate."

Malay said this was Ramos' reply to inquiries about what he and Ms Arroyo had discussed.

The statement said Ramos was sticking to his position for the country to shift from a presidential to parliamentary form of government by June 2007.

"This means that President Arroyo has to

FVR STICKS/ A6

Arrest order out but GIs' custody in doubt

By Tonette Orejas
and Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—AN ARREST warrant was issued yesterday morning for the four US Marines charged with the Nov. 1 rape of a Filipino woman at the Subic Bay Freeport, but their Filipino coaccused was cleared.

While Judge Renato Dilag of the Olongapo Regional Trial Court ordered the immediate arrest of Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, he said their Filipino driver, Timoteo Soriano Jr., was "free as a bird."

Dilag said he found "no probable cause" to indict as a co-conspirator the 32-year-old driver of the van where the alleged rape occurred.

Reiterating his earlier statements, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the warrant issued by Dilag was no guarantee that the Philippines would automatically have custody of the accused.

ARREST/ A6

Noli breaks silence: I am my own man

By Cynthia D. Balana

BREAKING HIS SILENCE ON THE axing of "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" (MGB) by the TV network ABS-CBN, Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said he was his "own man."

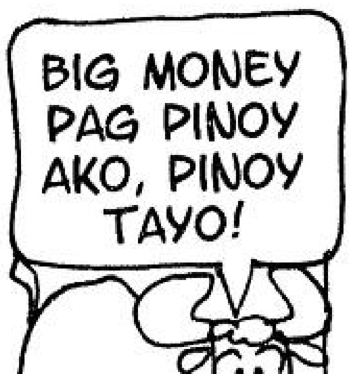
He said the reported rift with the network's owners, the Lopezes, only proved that he was not their puppet.

"I am not a Lopez boy," De Castro declared in an interview with the INQUIRER. "Some people think I am just because I worked there (at ABS-CBN) for a long time. I'm my own man. *Itong mga pangyayaring ito ay nagpapatunay lamang na hindi ako tao ng mga Lopez.*"

Asked to elaborate, De Castro said he had refused to talk about the cancellation of MGB because he believed he had nothing to explain.

"It was they who pulled MGB off the air. Why should I be the one to explain? It is up to the peo-

NOLI/ A6


BIG MONEY PAG PINOY AKO, PINOY TAYO!

2 alien 'house mates' want to become Pinoys

By Leila B. Salaverria

THESE ALIENS WANT TO BECOME Pinoys.

Reality show contestants Sam Milby and Uma Barum want to be recognized as Filipino citizens, claiming that one of their parents is Filipino, according to Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr.

Pinoy Big Brother had nothing to do with it; but the BI did.

The bureau yesterday fined Milby and Barum P40,000 and P10,000, respectively, as aliens working without permits in the country. The two were also granted special work permits, valid for three months, so they could now pursue local show business ventures.

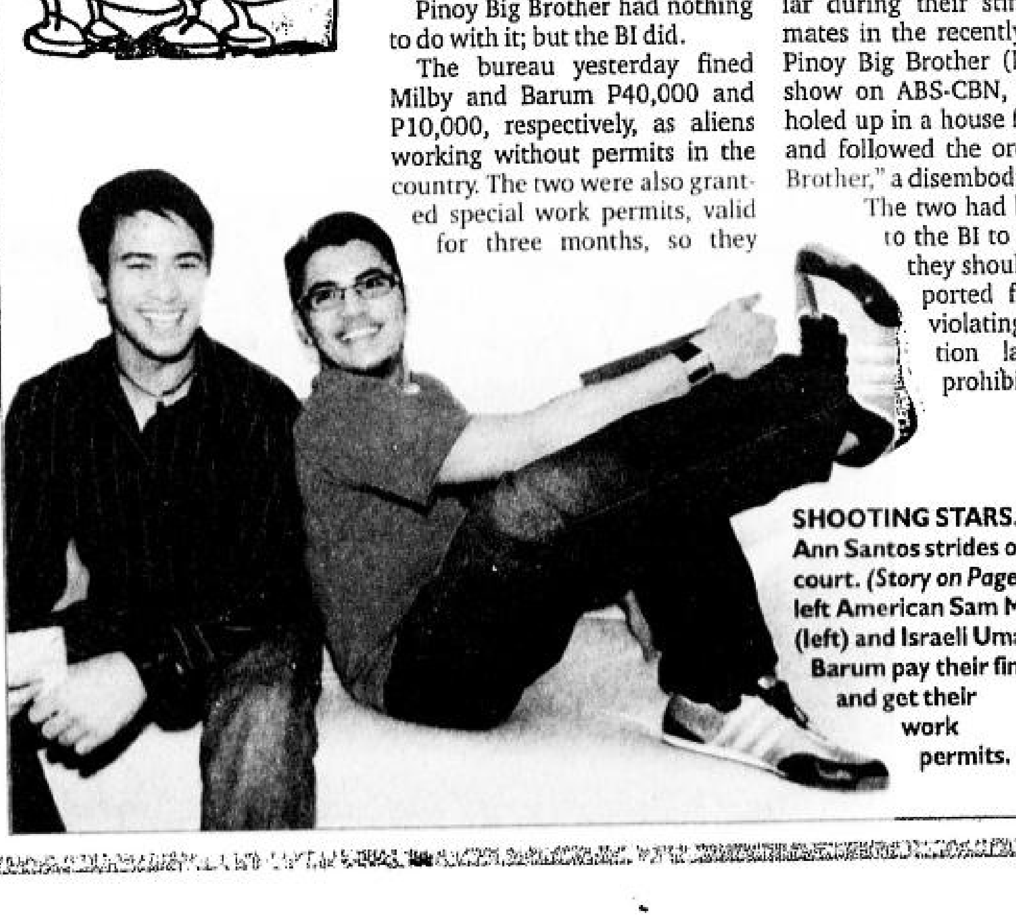
But if Milby and Barum were recognized as locals, they would no longer need work permits.

Fernandez said that the two had already signified their intention to seek recognition as Filipinos.

Milby, an American, and Barum, an Israeli, became popular during their stint as house mates in the recently concluded Pinoy Big Brother (PBB) reality show on ABS-CBN, where they holed up in a house for 100 days and followed the orders of "Big Brother," a disembodied voice.

The two had been invited to the BI to explain why they should not be deported for allegedly violating immigration laws, which prohibit foreign-

2 ALIEN/ A4



REM ZAMORA

SHOOTING STARS. Judy Ann Santos strides out of court. *(Story on Page A5)* At left American Sam Milby (left) and Israeli Uma Barum pay their fines and get their work permits.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/01/14/06

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Army chief rejects talks with Reds

General Esperon: We'll fight them and the plans are laid out

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY CHIEF YESTERDAY ruled out peace talks with communist rebels, signaling the government was focused on eliminating a long-term security threat and using troops to weed out the roots of insurgency.

Lt.Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, commander of the 70,000-member ground forces, said the military was ready to do battle with New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas and was also focusing on development work in poor rural villages to check the expansion of rebel influence.

"We'll fight them and the plans are laid out," Esperon, wearing camouflage fatigues, said in an interview at an army fortress near Manila's business district.

"The President has decided that we do not go on peace talks with them. They take advantage of the democratic space. They take advantage of the security and immunity guarantees. They roam and propagandize, arouse, organize and mobilize."

The Philippines, the United States' closest security ally in Southeast Asia, estimates the NPA membership at 7,000, down from a peak of more than 25,000 in the mid-1980s.

The insurgency, which has killed an estimated 40,000 people, is active in 69 of 79 provinces and has stunted rural development by terrorizing villages and businesses with violence and "revolutionary war taxes."

"The talks will not give us anything," said Esperon, adding the military was supporting Malaysian-brokered peace negotiations now in progress with the largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Esperon said he was more confident a peace deal would be signed with Islamic rebels, reducing threats from separatist guerrillas and other Muslim militant groups with ties to al Qaida and its Southeast Asian franchise, Jemaah Islamiyah.

"The matter of secession is not so much a problem," said the seasoned intelligence and combat officer, who spent most of his career fighting communist rebels and Muslim separatists on the troubled southern island of Mindanao.

A truce with the MILF has held since July 2003 and further cooperation with the Muslim rebels under a peace agreement would further isolate homegrown groups such as Abu Sayyaf that have been linked to al Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah.

Last October, the government revoked the immunity that had applied to about 100 communist members engaged in peace negotiations, more than a year after Norwegian-brokered talks were suspended.

Communist leaders said they would not return to negotiations unless the government agreed to help persuade the United States and some European governments to remove them from lists of terror groups.

Apart from stepping up offensives against rebels, including the recruitment of 7,000 extra troops this year, Esperon said army engineers were focusing on 500 impoverished villages across the country to build roads, schools and artesian wells.

"That's not exactly the job of the military," he said, adding the army would take part in development activities to check the expansion of rebel influence from the countryside, reversing the Maoist strategy of waging protracted war by encircling cities.

Esperon said the government was spending P5 billion of its P35 billion in savings last year to bring development to remote villages with a known rebel presence.

The military was alarmed by rising NPA violence during the last four months of 2005, he said, adding soldiers had been distracted by a political crisis spawned by allegations of election fraud and corruption against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Reviewing photographs taken during political protests in Metro Manila last year, Esperon said the army learned NPA rebels had infiltrated the crowd and may have brought in "armed members."

Commanders were also guarding their own ranks due to persistent efforts by Arroyo's political foes to convince the military to withdraw support from her administration, he said.

"It's distracting us," Esperon said. "But we'll just stick to our constitutional mandate. As long as we get out of partisan politics, that should do it." *Reuters*

PERON
PHIL. ARMY

ESPERON: The communist rebels are taking "advantage of the democratic space."

REUTERS

US to give $100,000 reward to Abu informant in Zambo on Monday

THE US GOVERNMENT WILL hand over a US$100,000 reward to a Filipino who helped authorities capture a member of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group last year, the American Embassy said Friday.

The money will be given to a "courageous individual who stood against terrorism" in ceremonies Monday at the military's Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga city, the embassy said in a statement, without identifying the recipient.

Embassy spokesman Matthew Lussenhop said the captured Abu Sayyaf member, Toting Hanno, is suspected of taking part in the abduction of three Americans — missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, and Guillermo Sobero — from a Philippine resort in May 2001. Sobero was later killed and a year later Martin Burnham died in a military rescue while his wife was wounded.

Hanno was arrested in May 2002, but escaped from the Basilan provincial jail a year later. He was recaptured in January last year on an island off Zamboanga.

The US government has already paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in rewards for the capture and killings of Abu Sayyaf members and leaders, including about US$359,600 to three men who helped locate Hamsiraji Sali, a key Abu Sayyaf commander who was killed in a clash with government troops in 2004.

US counterterrorism training of Filipino troops has been credited with their battlefield successes against the Abu Sayyaf. The group is on a US list of terrorist organizations. *AP*

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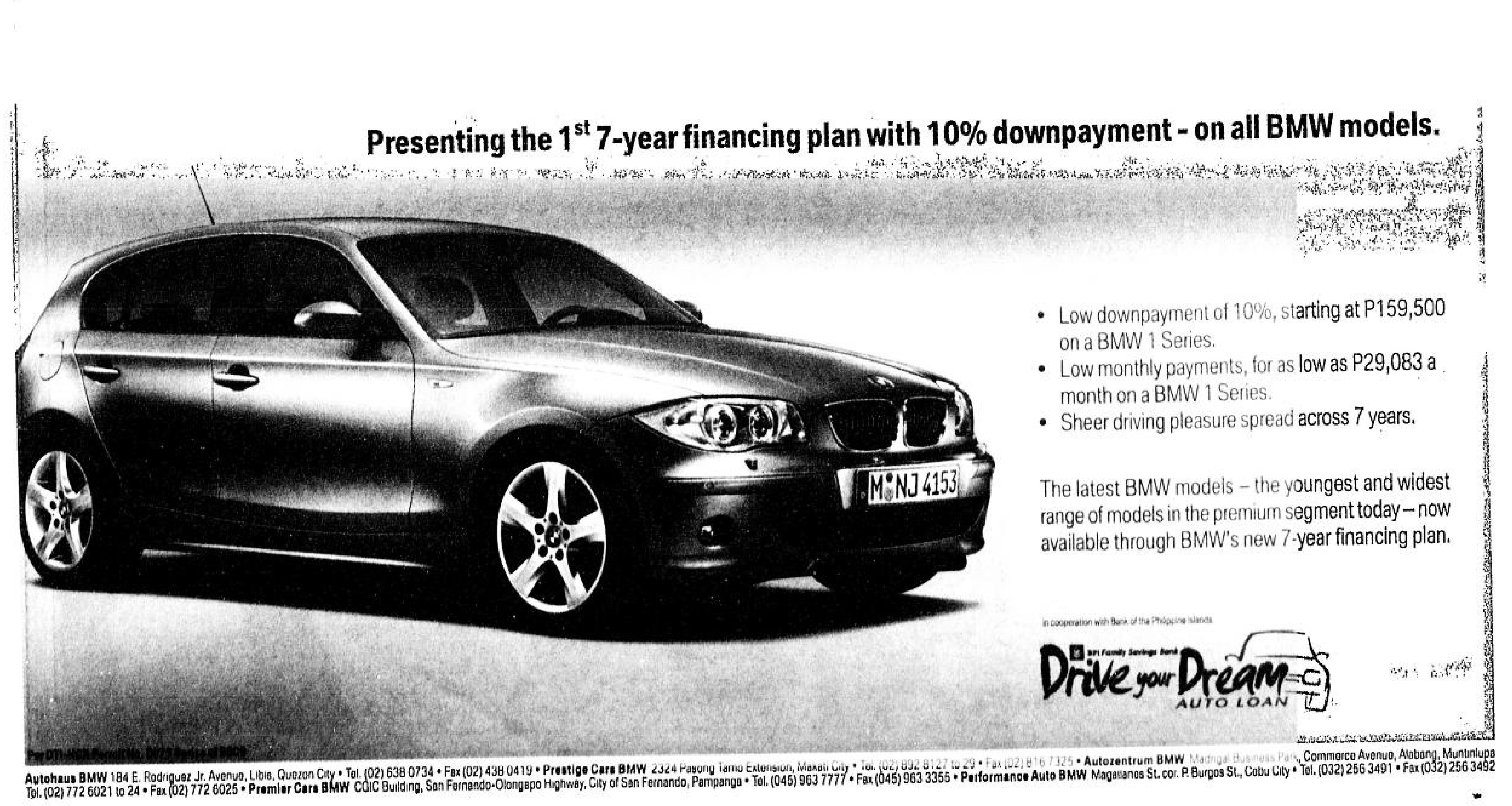
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Ban lewd shows on cable TV, solon urges

By Philip C. Tubeza

APPALLED BY THE BLATANT display of bare breasts and buttocks on prime time television, a pro-administration lawmaker yesterday urged the National Telecommunications Commission to revoke the franchise of the Lopez-owned cable television company SkyCable.

Pampanga Rep. Francis L. Nepomuceno, chair of the House committee on civil service and professional regulation, urged the NTC and the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board to stop the "obscene showing" of a program hosted by American Jerry Springer on Channel 53 of SkyCable.

He said the program, aired at around 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 8, showed a number of American women pulling up their blouses to display their huge breasts and men pulling down their pants to show their buttocks to the viewing public.

Nepomuceno, one of the country's most vocal fighters against smut and obscenity, said government regulators should impose sanctions on Skycable for "promoting obscenity."

"Though the scenes were blurred, still we know that obscene acts were committed by the program and should not be allowed to be aired at prime time in cable television," Nepomuceno said in a statement.

He also criticized the showing of Blind Date in ETC, Channel 52 of SkyCable on Jan. 10 wherein women had very revealing attires; torrid French kissing, necking, and a macho dancer pushing his genitals to the breast of a woman.

Nepomuceno, an anti-pornography crusader, said the scenes of the show are not acceptable in Philippine setting which is downright vulgar and immoral.

Nepomuceno argued that unwholesome TV programs should be totally banned to protect children from their "serious psychological impact."

He, however, lauded the move of the NTC to ban sex chats on cable TV.

Abra town mayor slain by lone assassin

By Luige A. del Puerto
and Artha Kira Paredes,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE MAYOR OF A TOWN IN Abra was shot dead last night by a lone assassin while the official was watching a basketball game, police said.

Mayor Marc Ysrael Bernos of La Paz died while being taken to a hospital in his town, said Chief Supt. Leonardo Dionisio, head of the Cordillera Administrative Region Police.

He was the third opposition mayor killed in Abra since 2000.

"He was watching basketball. It was a town activity. Somebody approached him from behind and shot him at the back," Dionisio told the INQUIRER on the phone.

"He was brought to a hospital (in Bangued) but was pronounced dead on arrival," he added.

The mayor suffered a gunshot wound at the back of the head.

Abra police director Senior Supt. Marcelo Manalo said Bernos was shot at about 7:15 p.m. and died about 40 minutes later.

After shooting the mayor, the unidentified assassin kept on firing his gun, causing a stampede among people watching the game.

The basketball tournament was organized by Bernos as part of La Paz's celebration on Jan. 24 of the Feast of Our Lady of Peace.

The police immediately secured the family of Bernos and set up checkpoints in an effort to catch the suspect.

As of press time, police were still talking to witnesses to try to get a clue on the gunman's identity.

The police refused to speculate who was behind the killing or if the gunman was a hired assassin.

Early last year, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes sacked the entire Abra police force for their failure to go after private armed groups in the province.

Reyes also tried to broker peace between feuding politicians in the province.

Last year, there was also an attempt to assassinate another mayor, Cecilia Luna of Lagayan town. Luna is an ally of Bernos.

China help sought vs dumped goods from mainland

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS wants China's help to stop the dumping of cheap goods from mainland China which are now flooding the country's markets, including bargain hunter's destinations like the 168 mall in Divisoria, and hurting local retailers.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said he plans to forge an agreement with China for the latter to provide customs officials with export documents so the country would be able to determine the proper customs valuations of and impose correct taxes on goods from China.

He said he plans to write the customs office in China through its embassy in Manila to propose the arrangement.

"We can effectively collect more revenues from imports and prevent smuggling with the cooperation of the Chinese government," Morales said in a statement.

Morales also met with the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc. (FFCCCI) to seek its support for the undertaking.

He noted that the proper assessment of import items, especially the massive shipments from China, is vital. It is also one of the measures that the Customs commissioner earlier said he plans to focus on in order to intensify revenue collection to meet the bureau's increased P192 billion target for 2006.

"The undervaluation, if not smuggling, of goods from China is not only hurting Philippine business, but is also causing massive loss of revenues to the Philippine government," Morales said.

FFCCCI President Francis Chua vowed to assist the BOC in seeking an agreement with China on customs valuation, according to a BOC statement.

MILF guerrillas suspected behind sultan's murder

By Charlie C. Señase
and Nash B. Maulana
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY – INVESTIGATORS suspect extremists belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were behind the fatal shooting of Maguindanao Sultan Amir Muhammad Baraguir, police said yesterday.

An officer who asked not to be identified said one of the reasons investigators believed MILF guerrillas might be behind the killing was Baraguir's opposition to the establishment of a Moro nation in Mindanao. He supposedly favored a United Nations-sponsored "decolonization of Maguindanao and Sulu" and the conversion of these provinces into two separate nations.

Baraguir, who would have turned 46 on Monday, was killed shortly before 7 p.m. on Wednesday as he and his party were returning home in Barangay Salimbao, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, from an affair hosted by National Anti-Poverty Commission Chair Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan.

Baraguir's younger brother, Andy, was wounded in the attack, carried out by assailants on two motorcycles.

Recently installed as the 25th Sultan of Maguindanao, Baraguir was an advocate of moderation and tolerance. He was an expert on the Malay Muslim culture, especially on Maguindanao, and an analyst of global Islamist and contemporary Muslim political trends. He wrote for the INQUIRER's "Kris-Crossing Mindanao" column in 2002.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, denied that the MILF was involved in the killing and said the insinuation was designed to derail peace talks with the government.

"We have no interest whatsoever in the sultanate system or in Baraguir because we are a revolutionary group," Kabalu said, adding the MILF was willing to assist the police in the investigation.

Senior Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, police director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police director, dismissed the MILF angle, citing a report from police in Sultan Kudarat that the killers belonged to the "underworld."

US Embassy closed on Monday

THE US EMBASSY AND ITS AFFILIATED offices will be closed to the public on Monday, Jan. 16, 2006, the US Embassy announced in a press statement Friday. Jan. 16 is Martin Luther King Day, an American holiday.

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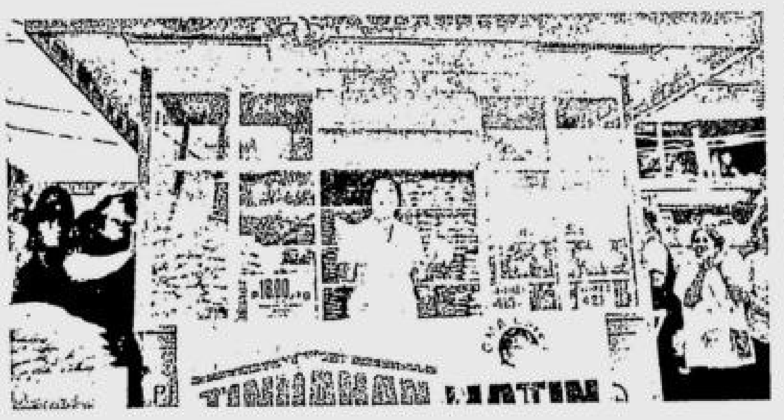


RICE AND SHINE President Macapagal-Arroyo celebrates the centennial anniversary of Navotas town by launching another Tindahan Natin program and the Serbisyo Muna Caravan 7 at the San Jose Parish.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Now, it's subsidized drugs

By Nancy Carvajal

AFTER SUBSIDIZED RICE AND NOODLES, the government now plans to put medicines within the reach of poor Filipinos at half their regular prices.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor made this announcement while accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo during the inauguration of the first "Tindahan Pinoy" in Navotas yesterday morning.

"Unlike with rice and noodles where you need an ID from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to be allowed to buy, in the discounted medicines, it's open to the public," Defensor said.

He said that the President had allocated P500 million for the "Half-Priced Medicines for the Poor Project." For the first month, Defensor said, the President would release P100 million, then 200 million in February and P300 million in March.

"To sustain the project, the money from sales must be rolled back," Defensor said, adding that the project would first be tested in Metro Manila before being expanded to the provinces.

He said the Philippine International Trading Corp. was negotiating with pharmaceutical companies in India and China for the procurement of low-priced medicines, which would be sold only through local government health centers or any local organization.

Cheap food an afterthought

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S PLAN to use part of the P35 billion economic pump-priming fund to subsidize rice and instant noodles for the poor is turning out to have been a knee-jerk reaction to reports of increasing hunger among Filipinos instead of a deliberate decision based on careful study.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri revealed that the P35 billion was intended principally to bankroll infrastructure programs and low-interest loans for small traders. If any government money was to be spent for rice and instant noodles, "it would be a modest amount," he added.

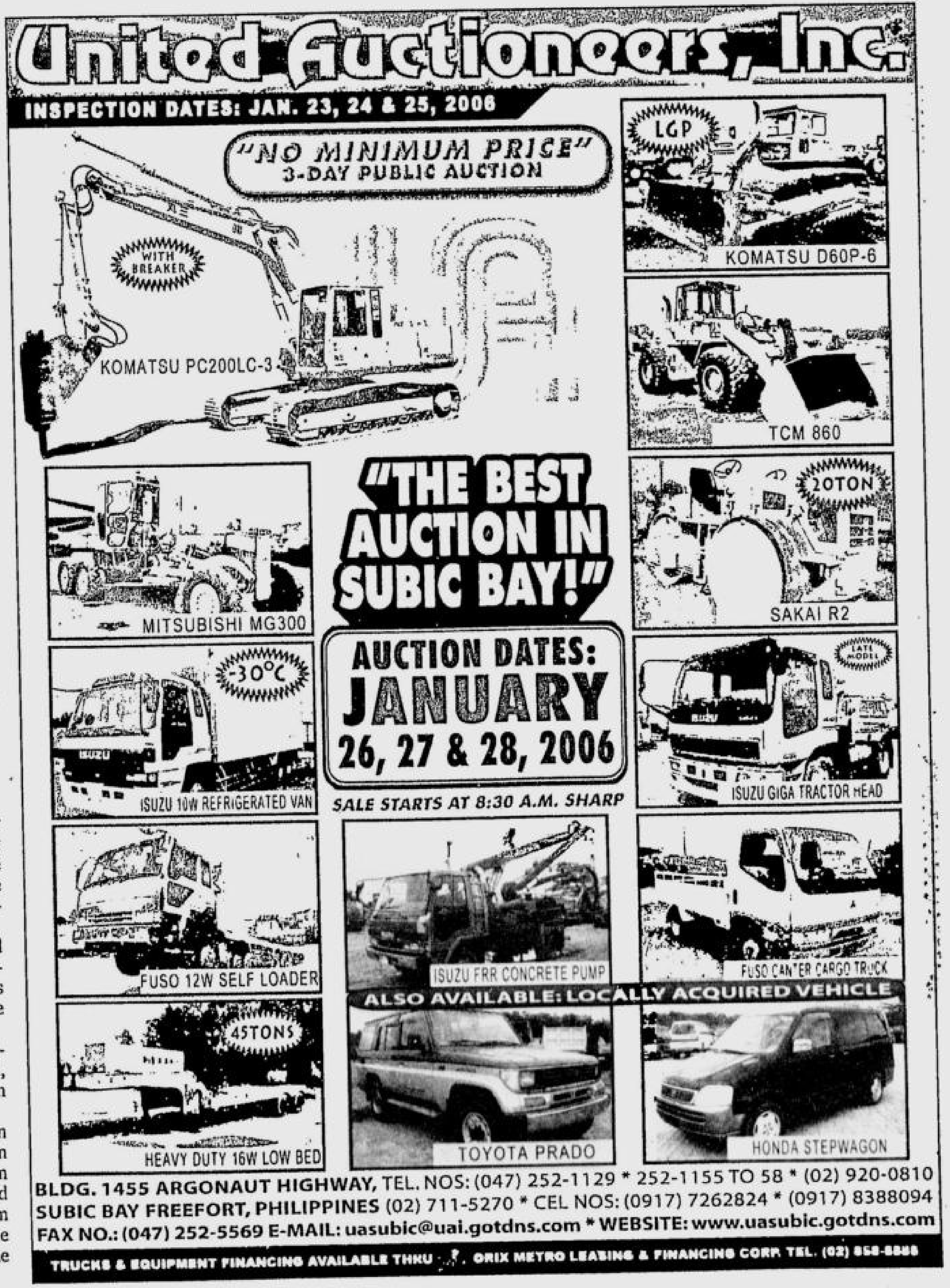
President Arroyo announced yesterday that at least P500 million or 1.4 percent of the P35 billion pump-priming fund has been earmarked for the National Food Authority, which has been tasked to buy the rice and instant noodles.

"The distribution of cheap rice and noodles is not a dole-out, we are selling these at low prices of P18 per kilo for rice and P4.25 per pack for noodles because these are the best way to solve the hunger in our country," the President said during the inauguration of the "Tindahan Natin," which would sell the subsidized goods to indigent communities.

The President announced her plan to sell more subsidized rice and noodles after a survey showed that nearly 1 out of 5 Filipinos had nothing to eat for at least one day in the last three months.

The President said she would get the money from the economic pump-priming fund, but Neri said that the fund had no provision for rice and noodle subsidies.

Neri identified the sources of the P35 billion pump-priming fund as follows: P10 billion from the National Development Co.; P10 billion from the Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines; P10 billion from internal revenue allocation to be refunded by the government this year; and P5 billion from the unspent portion of last year's budget.



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All in the family: 2 sons tagged in Iloilo murders

From page A1

In a two-page complaint filed before the Iloilo City Prosecutor's Office, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Western Visayas filed two counts of murder and one count of parricide against Archie, 23, and John Michael, 18.

The brothers are Tan's sons from a previous relationship.

"It was a well-planned, well-executed and premeditated criminal offense," Supt. Renato Gumban, CIDG director for Western Visayas, told reporters yesterday.

Gumban said Archie was driven to kill his father and stepmother because he wanted to take over the multimillion-peso family business. He said John Michael acted as accomplice.

The Tan family owns the Crown Agro Chemical, which is a chain of stores selling pesticides, fertilizers and other agricultural products.

Other children unhurt

The 52-year-old businessman was found dead inside his bedroom at the two-story family mansion in Molo district here before dawn on Monday. Also found dead were his wife Cynthia Zayco-Tan, 37, and their 6-year-old daughter Kathy.

All the victims died from several stab wounds in the chest. The couple's five other children and Francisco's aunt, businesswoman Conchita Tan, were unhurt.

The brothers earlier told investigators that they found the bodies of their father, stepmother and half-sister when they came home at around 3 a.m. after sneaking out of their house for a night out.

But police said the evidence they gathered showed that the brothers were in the house when the crime was committed.

He said evidence gathered by a combined team of investigators from various police units and agencies "point to [the brothers] as the perpetrators."

15 witnesses

The evidence was also supported by testimonies of around 15 witnesses, including the family's security guard and household staff, as well as crime laboratory results and autopsy reports, said Gumban.

"We're very sure it was not [because of] robbery," he said.

Motive

Based on testimonies of witnesses, Gumban said the brothers were "angry" at their father and stepmother.

Cynthia allegedly earned the ire of Archie because she stopped him from owning his own business, said Gumban.

Investigators believed Kathy, who was sleeping with her parents, was killed because she saw the crime and could identify her brothers.

Gumban said they were still gathering more evidence to determine if there were other persons involved in the crime.

The police will also request the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold-departure order against the brothers.

Brothers' alibi

The police investigation backed the claim of the brothers that they sneaked out of their residence by jumping over their house's concrete fence at around 12:45 a.m. of Jan. 9.

The boys said they went to the Calzada bar then to Camp Jefferson bar and to the Caltex Starmart convenience store before returning to their house at around 3 a.m.

"We proved that they went out but our evidence showed they were present during the commission of the crime," Gumban said in a telephone interview.

Lawyer's statement

He said the autopsy reports showed the victims were killed between 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. of Jan. 8.

Lawyer Leonardo Jiz, the Tan family lawyer, said the brothers were "saddened" with the filing of the complaint against them.

"They could not believe that they would be accused when they are the ones grieving over the death of family members," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Jiz said the family, based on its own investigation, did not believe the brothers were involved in the crime.

"Ms Conchita Tan (who had raised Francisco when he was orphaned as a young boy) loves all her grandsons," he said.

Inside job?

But Jiz said the family matriarch "is willing to do everything to find the killers regardless of who they are."

He said the family would continue to cooperate with the police and follow any order of the courts. The boys had also assured him that they would not leave the country and would face the charges.

The boys also wanted the investigation to continue despite the filing of the complaint against them. They said the police should not stop looking for the killers.

Police were considering it an inside job because they did not find any sign of forcible entry in the house, which is enclosed by a concrete fence and has a security guard. The family also owns several dogs.

SCENE OF THE CRIME is the palatial home of Francisco Tan and his family in Molo District in Iloilo City. CIDG operatives investigate the alleged entry point of the suspects beyond the trees and the guard house.

ARNOLD ALMACAN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

FAST FACTS

2 sensational parricide cases

Menendez brothers

On Aug. 20, 1989, brothers Lyle and Erik Menendez (then 21 and 17 years old respectively) shot and killed their parents Jose and Mary Louise Menendez inside their Beverly Hill mansion. Prosecutors said the brothers were motivated by greed since they stood to inherit their parents' estate worth $13 million.

Both were convicted of first degree murder on March 20, 1996 and are serving two consecutive life prison terms without parole.

Sef Gonzales

On July 10, 2001, Filipino migrants Teddy Gonzales, wife Mary Josephine and daughter Clodine were murdered inside their home in Sydney, Australia. They were all stabbed to death while the mother's and sister's throats had been slit. The lone survivor was the couple's then 20-year-old son Sef, who was later arrested and charged for the killings on June 30, 2002. Prosecutors said he murdered his family to get his A$1.5 million (US$1 million) inheritance. Sef was found guilty on May 20, 2004 and sentenced to three life terms.

2 alien 'house mates' want to become Pinoys

From page A1

ers from engaging in any gainful activity in the country without a permit from the bureau.

Violators could be arrested and deported, said BI executive director Roy Almoro.

Fernandez said Milby and Barum, who met with him yesterday, were fined because they both filed late applications for a special working permit.

The applications, filed on their behalf by ABS-CBN assistant vice president Florida Tan, were submitted to the BI on Jan. 2, three weeks after PBB ended its 110-day run.

After the show concluded, Milby and Barum appeared on various ABS-CBN shows. Before joining PBB, Milby had worked as a model for a toothpaste brand. After he was booted out of the reality show, he bagged a modeling stint for a clothing company.

Not earning in PBB

Fernandez said the two media personalities said they did not apply for work permits when they joined the contest because they were not earning money at that time.

But after their "eviction" from PBB, they had gone on to guest in other shows, Fernandez pointed out, hence the fines.

"Milby was meted a bigger fine because he had been working [here] longer. He appeared in a TV commercial even before he joined the reality show," Fernandez added. "They also stated some regrets. What is important is they follow immigration rules."

Advisory to foreigners

Fernandez warned that the two would face stiffer sanctions if they repeated their offense. He advised all foreigners intending to work here to get permits from the labor department.

Milby and Barum's arrival at the BI office in Intramuros, Manila, yesterday morning stopped worked in some divisions as employees—men and women alike—whipped out their cameras and descended on the two.

The employees followed them all the way to Fernandez's office, crowding around the commissioner's work area, displacing desks and chairs while they jostled and called out their names. They also hugged and kissed Milby and Barum and asked to pose with them for pictures.

Fishers fear displacement over DENR order . . .

From page A1

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor signed DENR Administrative Order No. 24 (DAO 24) on Nov. 17, 2005, opening up the Philippines' coastal areas while reviving the country's depleted mangrove forests.

Big business and local governments could now lease—for 25 years—some 266,000 sq. km. of the country's coastal areas for "non-extractive activities" like aquasilviculture (fisheries production and reforestation) and seaweed farming.

The DAO 24, whose objectives are to "encourage trade and investment in biodiversity" and "optimize the special use of degraded coastal areas" for sustainable development, lists the following sustainable activities on the granting of coastal areas for special use: Aquasilviculture, mud crab culture/fattening, oyster culture, blue crab culture/fattening, ecotourism, salt water crocodile rearing, seaweed farming and pearl culture/farming, etc.

What's 'etcetera?'

"That's the worst part—the 'etc.' What do they mean by etc? What kind of activities are these?" Arsenio Tanchuling, executive director of Tambuyog Development Center, said in a press briefing.

Tanchuling said the DAO 24 was behind the DENR's cancellation of more than 1,700 community-based forestry management agreements (CBFMA) which paved the way for big investors to use the coastal and forest resources.

A CBFMA is a renewable 25-year tenurial agreement issued by the DENR to an organization of communities to enable members to use and manage specific portions of forest lands, including mangrove forests, while enjoying tenurial security.

"This is the only poverty reduction program of the DENR and now the government is taking this away without basis, effectively removing the poor's access to resources and defeating the special justice objective of the program. The DENR's tendency is now toward the corporate control of resources," Tanchuling said.

Privatized

He added that about 230,000 hectares of Philippine coastal areas had already been privatized. They include the coastal waters of Lingayen Gulf, Visayan Sea, San Miguel Bay in Bicol and Davao Gulf.

The country has 18 mariculture parks approved by the DA's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Mariculture parks are areas leased to corporations for fish cages, processing plants and other infrastructure for raising high-value fish.

Under DAO 24, the DENR would get 3 percent of total net revenues from the coastal area development. The lease agreement would be good for 25 years and renewable for another 25 years, depending on the DENR's evaluation of the project.

Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro, however, said the main objective of the DAO 24 was to develop mangrove areas, consistent with the DENR's mandate under the Wildlife Preservation Act.

Reforesting mangroves

He said only less than 250,000 hectares of mangrove forests were left from the original 500,000 hectares.

"Our objective is to enter into agreements with the private sector, local governments and other interested parties to reforest the mangrove areas," De Castro told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

He said the DENR had identified about 20,000 hectares that would be the priority sites for coastal resource development and conservation. The DENR also met with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss the coastal management policy.

Defensor had cancelled 8,000 forest agreements including industrial and timber licenses covering 2.2 million hectares during his term, citing the inability of the holders to comply with requirements.

Commercialization

Defensor has taken a leave of absence effective yesterday to assist President Macapagal-Arroyo in her political affairs.

"The trend is really commercialization. Even [ex-DENR chief Antonio] Cerilles did not show this much change in policy," Philippine Greens spokesperson and noted environmental lawyer Maria Paz Luna said in a separate interview.

Luna said Defensor's DAO 24 was "legally infirm" because it encroached on the mandate of the local governments and Department of Agriculture to manage and approve development plans for the country's coastal areas.

For clarification

De Castro said the DAO 24's target development areas were the depleted mangrove forests and not the entire coastal area.

He said the DENR would come out with a new order clarifying the position soon.

"We probably just have to change the title or make some clarification on the DAO," De Castro said.

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Gov't sets March 31 opening for Naia 3

By Nikko Dizon

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRport Authority (Miaa) is determined to make the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 "fully operational" by March 31– and has begun a countdown to the big day.

The countdown counter is the first thing that people would see when they step inside the main elevator of the Miaa administration building.

As of yesterday, there were only "77 days left to complete works at Naia 3." Emblazoned across the counter was the slogan "We make things happen."

The countdown is a way to rally the Miaa staff and employees behind the goal of opening Naia 3, said Robert Uy, an assistant to Miaa General Manager Alfonso Cusi.

Cusi had earlier informed the Airline Operators Council of the March 31 target, but officials of the airline association indicated they had a few misgivings.

"We'll support the Miaa; that's a definite commitment," said Ed Monreal, former AOC chair. "However, everything must be put in order first... For us, the airlines' interest, such as our investments, should not be jeopardized."

Airline officials are particularly wary of unresolved legal issues between the government and the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), the original operator of the Naia 3. The pending issues are the subject of international arbitration.

"Nobody wants to transfer because of the legal aspect," Monreal said.

Moreover, he noted, Miaa and airline representatives have yet to discuss the carriers' standard operational requirements, such as office space, ramp condition, communication systems, signages, cargo handling facilities, and the access road that would connect Terminals 2 and 3.

The AOC has maintained that the airlines need a lead time of six months to smoothly effect their transfer from Terminal 1 to Naia 3.

The Miaa has advanced $10 million to the Japanese construction firm Takenaka Corp. for completion work on various terminal installations such as conveyors.

Juday's tax case postponed

By DJ Yap

THE ARRAIGNMENT of actress Judy Anne Santos' high-profile tax evasion case failed to push through yesterday after Santos' lawyer filed a motion to quash the case.

Santos' lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan sought the dismissal of the case, arguing that the allegations contained in the charge sheet "did not constitute an offense," among other grounds.

Santos was supposed to be arraigned yesterday before the Court of Tax Appeals for tax evasion charges jointly filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, under its "Run After Tax Evaders" program, the Department of Finance and Department of Justice.

But when Alentajan asked the court to act on the actress' motion first before the arraignment, prosecutor Olivia Torrevillas said they have not yet received a copy of the motion.

Presiding Justice Ernesto Acosta asked Santos to furnish a copy to the prosecutor, who should submit a comment in 10 days. Santos, in turn, will submit a reply after another 10 days.

Santos filed the motion to quash on Jan. 10, in which she questioned the authority of the complainants in filing the information, and argued that the court has no jurisdiction over the case.

Until the motion is acted on, the arraignment has been reset to another unspecified date.

Santos was earlier charged with tax evasion for allegedly declaring a gross income of only P8 million for 2002, even though she actually earned P16.4 million, resulting in a total tax deficiency of P2.7 million, a charge the actress has denied.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, January 14, 2006
1st Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 S 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1
Gospel: Mark 2:13-17

When Jesus went out again beside the lake, a crowd came to him and he taught them. As he walked along, he saw a tax collector sitting in his office. This was Levi, the son of Alpheus. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And Levi got up and followed him.

And it so happened that while Jesus was eating in Levi's house, tax collectors and sinners were sitting with him and his disciples for there were indeed many of them. But there were also teachers of the Law of the Pharisees' party, among those who followed Jesus, and when they saw him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why! He eats with tax collectors and sinners!"

Jesus heard them and answered, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

Samuel looks for the king in Israel and anoints Saul as "commander over his heritage." He is to govern the Lord's people and save them from the grasp of their enemies. They have been given what they asked for, instead of God as their only leader. And Jesus too, assumes his leadership, calling to him his disciples, looking for those he wants with him. He finds Levi, a tax collector and summons him to his side. Jesus is looking for sinners, not those who are self-righteous; those who know they need medicine and a doctor. Which of these are we—really?

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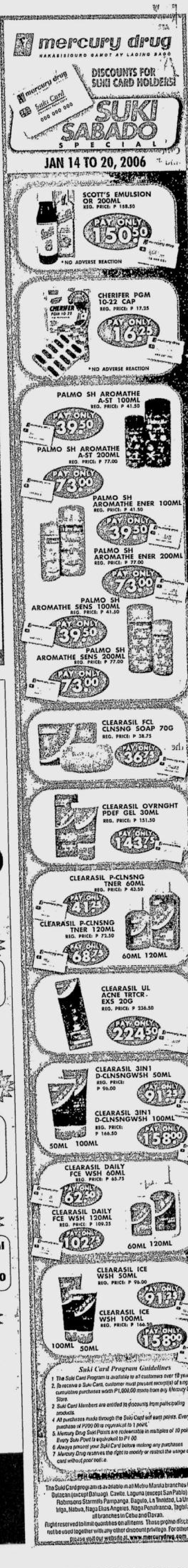
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Judgment useless without custody, says victim's lawyer

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT's continued lack of custody over the four US soldiers accused of raping a Filipino woman may render "ineffectual" any decision of a Philippine court in the case, according to a lawyer of the complainant.

"[Custody] is an issue because a conviction will not have any effect if the Philippine government cannot enforce its laws or primary jurisdiction over them," lawyer Marie Sheila Bazar said yesterday at the weekly Kapihan sa Newsdesk in Quezon City.

"Any judgment by a Philippine court will be rendered ineffectual," she said.

Bazar said that while due process had been followed resulting in the issuance of warrants for the arrest of the four accused, the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement had caused deviations from the criminal justice system in this case.

"You have two things working at the same time—our laws and the VFA. Both are at work, so harmonizing the two is a great problem," she said.

Bazar, however, said she was airing her own legal opinion and not that of the team that includes other lawyers Katrina Legarda and Zorayda Ruth Andam.

"Whether the arrest order will be entertained by the US is another matter since the law being followed is already the [VFA]. That's our problem," Bazar said.

"But that doesn't stop us from prosecuting," she added.

She also said the rape case would be a test case as far as implementing Philippine laws vis-à-vis the VFA provisions was concerned.

Not that, Bazar said, the VFA was making things difficult for the complainant's lawyers.

"My only problem is with the implementation of the court processes," she said. "As a lawyer, I am concerned with making a good case for my client. The VFA is within the purview of the legislative and executive branches of government."

FVR sticks to ultimatum

From page A1

cut short her term by 2007," according to the latest statement.

There was also some confusion on exactly what role Speaker Jose de Venecia played in the Wednesday meeting.

Lakas sources earlier said that De Venecia came late for the talks but Ramos and Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio said the Speaker was in the meeting.

At a press briefing yesterday at the Clark Special Economic Zone, Ramos said there were no clear agreements reached during the meeting with Ms Arroyo on the issues of her cutting her term short and the holding of parliamentary elections in 2007.

"*Walang ganoong maliwanag na usapan* (There was no such clear agreement)," Ramos said.

Not jovial but serious

Ramos was at Clark to promote the revival of Expo Pilipino, a Philippine Independence centennial project launched during his term.

He declined to disclose details of the Wednesday meeting, saying only that "75 percent of the news and analysis was partially correct."

The ex-President also corrected reports that the meeting was "jovial," preferring to describe it as "serious."

Asked in an ambush interview if he would reiterate his proposal during today's meeting of the Lakas-CMD, Ramos said: "*Abangan nyo* (Watch for it)."

Correcting Claudio

Ramos rejected the French parliamentary model espoused by De Venecia, which would provide for shared powers between the President and the incoming prime minister until 2010.

Such a setup would only result in a "status quo," he said.

"A fresh start has to be in place by 2007 because the country may not be able to weather the political and economic crisis," Ramos said.

Correcting Claudio

Ramos gave the INQUIRER a copy of Claudio's press statement on the meeting but with his corrections and marginal notes on it.

Ramos disputed Claudio's contention that the Wednesday meeting was "an unmistakable reiteration of the two Presidents' support for each other."

Ramos, in his marginal notes, stressed that his support was for the national interest of the country, "not for particular leaders."

On Claudio's claim that both leaders agreed on a "win-win formula," Ramos said "conflicting versions in today's broadsheets do not augur well for expected win-win formula."

He further wrote: "Repeated reference to French model not palatable to me due to it being almost like status quo for four more years under 1987 Charter … but not genuine reform."

Ermita's version

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said no detailed discussions took place on the tenure of Ms Arroyo or on the proposal to scrap the 2007 polls during the Wednesday dinner-meeting.

This was because Ramos early on suggested to them that they let Congress and the people decide on these two contentious Charter change issues.

"And the President and Speaker De Venecia agreed (with Ramos' suggestion) that this be thrown to Congress," Ermita said.

On the eve of today's Lakas national directorate meeting, Malacañang reiterated that Ms Arroyo intended to finish her term in 2010 unless a new Constitution stated that she should step down earlier.

Around 50 to 70 Lakas officials are to gather in Malacañang tonight for the national directorate meeting.

Among the issues to be taken up tonight include the proposal of the Palace-created Consultative Commission to scrap the 2007 polls as well as whether to allow President Arroyo to step down in 2007 as part of the transition from presidential to a parliamentary form of government.

Palace position

"President Arroyo will stay until 2010 and exercise her full power, authority and mandate under her oath until the Filipinos say otherwise in a constitutionally sanctioned process," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Avoid more heat

"At a time when the nation needs a strong leadership for economic takeoff, social reform and political renewal, we find it unnecessary to belabor the transitional issues of Charter change before they have even been discussed in Congress or considered by the sovereign people," Bunye said.

Apparently referring to Ramos, who continued to press for the President to cut short her term, Bunye appealed to everyone to "first resolve the basic structural reforms … before we delve into term limits or power sharing—which only tend to put more heat on the political pot."

Roberto Pagdanganan, Lakas vice president for rural development, said that many Lakas officials and members wanted the 2007 elections to push through and for Ms Arroyo to finish her term in 2010.

Pagdanganan, who was in Malacañang yesterday, said he was confident that the proposal to scrap the 2007 elections would not push through.

Unicameral parliament

He said consultations he made not only with party officials but also with ordinary people showed that many preferred to have the 2007 polls proceed.

People want elections because this was the only time they can pick the leaders they want, he said.

"My personal position is there should be elections," Pagdanganan said. "We should reform the electoral process as quickly as we can, and let there be elections in 2007."

He also said the proposal for a unicameral system was "gaining ground" not only in the party but even among ordinary people. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Arrest order out but GIs' custody …

From page A1

But he said the warrant would test the ties of friendship and the level of reciprocity between the Philippines and the United States.

The four accused have been in the custody of the US Embassy in Manila since Nov. 2. The embassy has yet to respond to a request for custody filed on Nov. 16 by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

After court researcher Bruce Flummer read the arrest order yesterday, Dilag read a statement saying: "The matter of sovereignty and national pride has set in in this particular case.

"In pursuing the normal legal process in the light of the provisions of the [RP-US] Visiting Forces Agreement, I am of the view that we can first try to exhaust diplomatic means to get custody of the four American servicemen.

"We are a civilized nation and we adhere to the tenets of international law. The strong arm of the law is not yet necessary at this point."

Rape being a heinous crime in the Philippines, no bail was recommended for the four accused.

Dilag said he would schedule their arraignment after their arrest.

Different process

The judge ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to serve the arrest warrant.

In Manila, NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring said the warrant would be served after proper coordination with the Department of Justice and the DFA.

"Head agent Joel Curament of our Olongapo District Office received a copy of the warrant and will deliver it to headquarters within the day," Mantaring told reporters in an interview.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said the Philippine National Police was prepared to assist in the serving of the warrant.

"Any arrest made will be made in coordination with the DOJ and the DFA, and we do not expect resistance," Bataoil said.

But this was not the process described earlier to reporters by Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the VFA.

Paredes had said it would be the DFA that would serve the warrant on US Embassy officials led by Charge d'Affaires Paul Jones at the department's offices in Pasay City.

If the warrant is not effectively served, meaning the US authorities decline to turn over the accused, the custody issue will come to a stalemate, Paredes had said.

But even if that happens, the arraignment and trial may still proceed, Dilag said earlier.

Wait and see

Whether the Philippine government would be able to take custody of the accused remained a wait-and-see affair.

At press time, the warrant had yet to be officially transmitted to the DFA.

"As from the beginning, on all legal and judicial matters concerning the Subic case, including the issue of the warrant of arrest, the DFA shall be guided by the legal advice of the [DOJ]," Bert Asuque, DFA spokesperson, said in a text message.

Asuque reiterated that the DFA had a pending custody request with the US Embassy.

"We continue to pursue this matter through diplomatic channels, and any differences shall be resolved through dialogue 'and diplomacy," he said.

Later at a briefing, Asuque reminded the public that the Subic rape case was "not an ordinary case."

"We have to take into account our treaty obligations when we address this issue," he said, referring to the VFA.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was in Washington when informed of the issuance of the warrant.

Asuque said the Subic case was not on the agenda of Romulo's trip. He said Romulo was in Washington to testify before an international arbitration body hearing the case of the controversial contract involving the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

Neither Asuque nor US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop agreed to give concrete updates on the negotiations over the issue of custody.

Lussenhop said that as far as the embassy was concerned, "we're moving forward" with the case under the VFA framework.

Local law vs VFA

Gonzalez said developments would "depend on [the Americans'] attitude—if they are willing to surrender these people."

"If not, they will just receive the warrant and tell us: 'We'll inform you later,'" he said.

According to Gonzalez, while local laws may empower the government to serve the arrest warrant, it cannot do so in view of the VFA.

"If you follow the VFA, there can really be no turnover," he said.

Asked about Philippine criminal laws, Gonzalez said: "You cannot compare local laws with the VFA because this is an international agreement."

Thus, the Philippines cannot do anything if the US government refuses to turn over the accused, he said.

"It may not be OK with us, but of course they can do that … And you cannot invade the US Embassy—it is sacrosanct," he said.

Defense moves

In separate phone interviews, defense lawyers said they would take action to stop the arrest of their clients.

Benjamin Formoso, counsel for Smith, said he would elevate the case before the Court of Appeals to obtain a temporary restraining order.

He said he would also ask the appellate court to rule on the issues of judicial determination of probable cause, jurisdiction, and the authority of Dilag to try the case given that the latter presides over a special family court.

Francisco Rodrigo and John Coluso, counsel for Carpentier and Silkwood and Duplantis, respectively, said they would file a motion to quash the warrant before Dilag's court.

"It's sad that our motions were dismissed," Coluso said, referring to his and Rodrigo's pleadings to defer proceedings.

Coluso wryly noted that the arrest order was handed on a Friday the 13th, a supposed day of misfortune.

Happy, disappointed

Interviewed by phone from Zamboanga City, the mother of the complainant said her daughter was "happy" that the arrest warrant had been issued, but "disappointed" that Soriano had been cleared.

The mother said her daughter was still suffering from nervousness and had not yet resumed work in the family-owned business. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Armand N. Nocum, Luige A. del Puerto and Margaux C. Ortiz in Manila*

Noli breaks silence: I am my own man

From page A1

ple to believe what they want to believe," he said in Filipino.

ABS-CBN did not renew the contract of the long-running weekly current affairs program that made De Castro famous as "Kabayan." Its last show was aired last Dec. 31.

A network insider said the decision was made because of De Castro's "problems" with ABS-CBN management over his support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

De Castro refused to talk about the alleged request of the Lopezes to sever his ties with the President.

But Maria Ressa, news and current affairs head of ABS-CBN, said in a statement to the INQUIRER on Wednesday that it was "an organizational move and not a political one."

Ressa went on the air on Thursday to reiterate the points she made in her statement. She also said she was instituting changes in the newsroom to promote "excellent journalism," and cited, among other things, MGB and the Vice President as a case of "conflict of interest."

Right to collect Meralco debt

But De Castro yesterday pointed out that he left MGB in 2004, when he assumed the vice presidency, to avoid conflict of interest.

He said he was not receiving compensation for his public service program, "Para sa Iyo, Bayan," which is aired by the Lopez-owned dzMM radio station every Saturday.

He also said whatever he had received from ABS-CBN in connection with the show was something he had worked hard for.

De Castro clarified that MGB was not a block-timer but a line-produced show, meaning it was ABS-CBN that was funding it, including the wages of the people behind it, and earning from commercials.

A block-timer finances the show and collects the profit from commercials, he explained.

He also said Bayan Productions, headed by his wife Arlene, was put up precisely for the show.

"It's like in the government. ABS-CBN gives the money to Bayan for MGB—directly, no red tape. I negotiated that arrangement when we put up MGB," he said.

Pressed to talk about his reported rift with the Lopezes, De Castro said Ressa had already made a statement.

Asked why the rumor that there was politics behind the axing of MGB was persisting, he said it was "Ressa's problem that no one was believing her."

Asked to explain his hardline stance against the Lopez-owned Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), De Castro said he had made a stand as a consumer.

He said the government, through the National Power Corp., was correct in pressing for the collection of billions of pesos that Meralco owed the NPC.

'Head-on collision'

His close friends in ABS-CBN, who asked not to be named for fear of losing their jobs, said the Lopezes declared a "head-on collision" with the President when they spent the holidays in the United States last month.

One of the sources said De Castro was not talking because the latter had resented the way ABS-CBN handled the "rift," especially in allowing Ressa to invoke the issue of conflict of interest.

"The Vice President is hurting. Why did they allow Maria Ressa's spin when there was no conflict of interest because he had long left MGB?" the source said, adding:

"Ressa obviously did not know what really happened. She is said to be a good broadcast journalist. If only she would dig deeper, she would know the truth.

"How can Ressa deny something which she does not have knowledge of? Was she there when the Lopezes spoke with the Vice President to abandon the President? Obviously, she is ignorant of the culture here, especially in local broadcasting.

"If the reported rift is not true, how come they don't invite the Vice President to [the early-evening news broadcast] 'TV Patrol' and ask him to deny it, which they would usually do whenever they want him to deny or clarify something? How come the Lopezes have not come forward to talk about it, and just let Ressa do the talking?"

'Feelers'

GMA 7 yesterday admitted that it had received "feelers" from the group behind MGB on the possibility of transferring the show to ABS-CBN's rival network.

"The issue has become complicated because of the politics. Now, it is no longer just a commercial transaction," GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon said in an interview.

Gozon said that as a policy, "we prefer to have nothing to do with politics so that we can stand by our slogan—*Walang kinikilingan*(unbiased)."

Gozon stressed that the network was not closing its doors on MGB. But he said talk about its transfer was premature and "neither here nor there."

He also said De Castro still had a lot of "commercial value."

De Castro, however, said he had no intention of hosting MGB in other TV stations because of his busy schedule as Vice President. *With a report from Clarissa C. Batino*

JDV behind 'no-election' provision …

From page A1

The lawmaker, who asked not to be named lest he antagonize Lakas party mates, said the Speaker wanted to do away with the 2007 polls to bar former President Fidel Ramos from seeking a parliamentary seat in his hometown Pangasinan, a jumping board to becoming prime minister.

GMA a victim

"Both of them are obsessed in becoming prime minister," said the Lakas member, referring to Ramos and De Venecia. "So in this contest between the two old politicians, President Arroyo becomes the victim."

The Lakas member added: "The two are quarreling over nothing. Imagine, they are fighting as if they can control the minds of congressmen and senators. What makes them think that the Senate will agree to their obsolete formulas?"

JDV rejoicing

Rosales recalled that on the day that the ConCom voted for the No-El proposal, De Venecia "was all over (the legislature), telling so many lawmakers about it."

Rosales said she was even chided by several administration lawmakers for not supporting the proposal which would be beneficial to incumbent officials.

It was on Dec. 15 when ConCom members voted to include the No-El proposal as part of transitory provisions of a proposed new Constitution. The proposal would extend the terms of office of all elective officials, including members of Congress and half of the Senate, who will automatically become part of the interim parliament until 2010.

Paras said he, too, was present at the lounge of the House of Representatives when De Venecia was rejoicing over the ConCom vote.

"From what I've heard from the Speaker when we were talking at the lounge, it seems that he had a hand in the decision for a No-El. He was happy to announce it to us at the time," said Paras.

Paras recalled that De Venecia disclosed to congressmen that the original "consensus" of the ConCom was to junk the proposal but it "won" in the end.

"We could not disregard the fact that the Speaker may have influence over the commission as far as the proposal for No-El was concerned," said Paras.

He added: "I think the Speaker had good intentions. His purpose for pushing for No-El, from what I heard from his explanation, is that since we have a new Constitution we have to get used to it first."

362 pilgrims dead in hajj stampede

MINA, SAUDI ARABIA—A TOTAL OF 362 PILGRIMS, including about 100 Egyptian nationals, were killed in the stampede at the annual hajj pilgrimage, a senior Saudi medical official told AFP on Friday.

A MUSLIM pilgrim tries to reach the dead body of a relative victim of a stampede in Mina, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 12. AP

"We now have 362 dead, including about 100 Egyptians," said Hussein Saleh Bahashwan, deputy director at al-Muaysem morgue, just outside of the city of Mina, east of the holy city of Mecca.

Earlier estimates said at least 345 pilgrims were trampled to death and almost 300 injured Thursday in a scramble to hurl pebbles at symbols of Satan on the last day of the annual Muslim pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

Stricken families were hunting for their loved ones Friday after the stampede at the hajj, a disaster Saudi authorities have blamed on unruly pilgrims.

In the absence of an official list of casualties, families continued to seek news of their missing relatives among the dead and wounded of the worst stampede during the Muslim pilgrimage since 1,426 pilgrims were killed in 1990.

At least 36 Pakistanis, 26 Indians, four Chinese and two Indonesian nationals were among the victims crushed to death in the stampede in Mina, east of the holy city of Mecca, according to their foreign ministries.

Riyadh blamed the stampede on unruly pilgrims from outside officially sanctioned operators.

But some witnesses said police triggered the chaos by suddenly blocking the entrance to a bridge, and others reported panic among pilgrims about when they should perform the last rite of hajj in which some 2.5 million took part.

Saudi Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said in remarks published Friday by the Saudi-owned Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper that the stoning ceremony had been taking place for several days without problems.

"But what happened is that more than 12 people were carrying a large amount of baggage on their backs, so when it became too crowded they fell on the ground one on top of the other," he said.

"People kept falling one on top of the other until about 300 people died," he said.

"Our pilgrim brothers are forbidden from carrying baggage and workloads on their shoulders during the stoning ritual."

On Thursday, Saudi Health Minister Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Maneh said the stampede was caused by "unruly pilgrims, and a problem of luggage."

Interior ministry spokesperson Mansur Al-Turki also said the accident occurred "because of the luggage that fell and led to a rush at the eastern entrance of the Jamarat bridge," where the pilgrims stone the three pillars.

The stoning of Satan is the riskiest episode of the hajj as the pilgrims jostle to make sure their pebbles touch the pillar while the weaker ones risk being trampled on by the masses.

The latest tragedy comes days after 76 people were killed when a hostel in the heart of Mecca collapsed last week.

Almost 60,000 security, health, emergency and other personnel were involved in organizing this year's hajj, trying to prevent the deadly incidents that have marred it in recent years from being repeated.

A total of 251 Muslim pilgrims were trampled to death in the 2004 hajj as people panicked during the stoning.

The ritual, which is spread out over three days, marks the final part of the hajj pilgrimage for the more than two million Muslim pilgrims who have flocked to Mecca from around the world. *AFP*

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Iran threatens to end nuclear cooperation

TEHRAN—IRAN ON FRIDAY THREATENED to end cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog over its nuclear program if the issue is referred to the UN Security Council.

"If the dossier is sent to the Security Council, the European countries will lose the means which are currently at their disposal, because ... the government will be obliged, in conformity with the law adopted by parliament, to end all its voluntary measures of cooperation," Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

Iran's standoff with the international community has escalated after Tehran resumed sensitive nuclear work but possible sanctions have been ruled out at least for the moment.

Europe's three major powers responded to Iran's move to reactivate uranium enrichment research by asking for an emergency meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), while UN chief Kofi Annan said Iran was still keen on pursuing nuclear talks with European powers.

In December Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad signed off on legislation that could limit UN inspections at Iran's nuclear sites if its case is taken to the Security Council.

The law obliges the government to "stop voluntary and non-legally binding measures and implement its scientific, research and executive programs" if the Security Council gets involved.

Ahmadinejad has ordered Iran's Atomic Energy Agency to be prepared to apply the law, the Fars news agency reported.

The law does not refer to specific forms of retaliation, but counter-measures could include refusing to adhere to the additional protocol of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which gives increased inspection powers to the IAEA.

The additional protocol was signed by the previous reformist government but was never ratified by MPs in the conservative-run parliament.

Compliance with the additional protocol is seen as being crucial to an IAEA probe into allegations that Iran is using an atomic energy drive as a cover for weapons development.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice accused Tehran of a "deliberate escalation" of the dispute, and said it was in "dangerous defiance of the entire international community."

Mottaki urged the Europeans to deal with Iran's nuclear activities with "discretion, patience and a rational attitude."

"We advise the Europeans to separate the question of research from producing the nuclear fuel and do not propagate around the nuclear research activities which had been unjustly suspended," he said.

"If they want to discuss making nuclear fuel we are ready to follow up with the negotiations with the EU-3," he said.

If the negotiations are broken off by the Europeans "Iran will only be in contact with the IAEA to maintain its legitimate and natural rights." *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Bird flu spreads

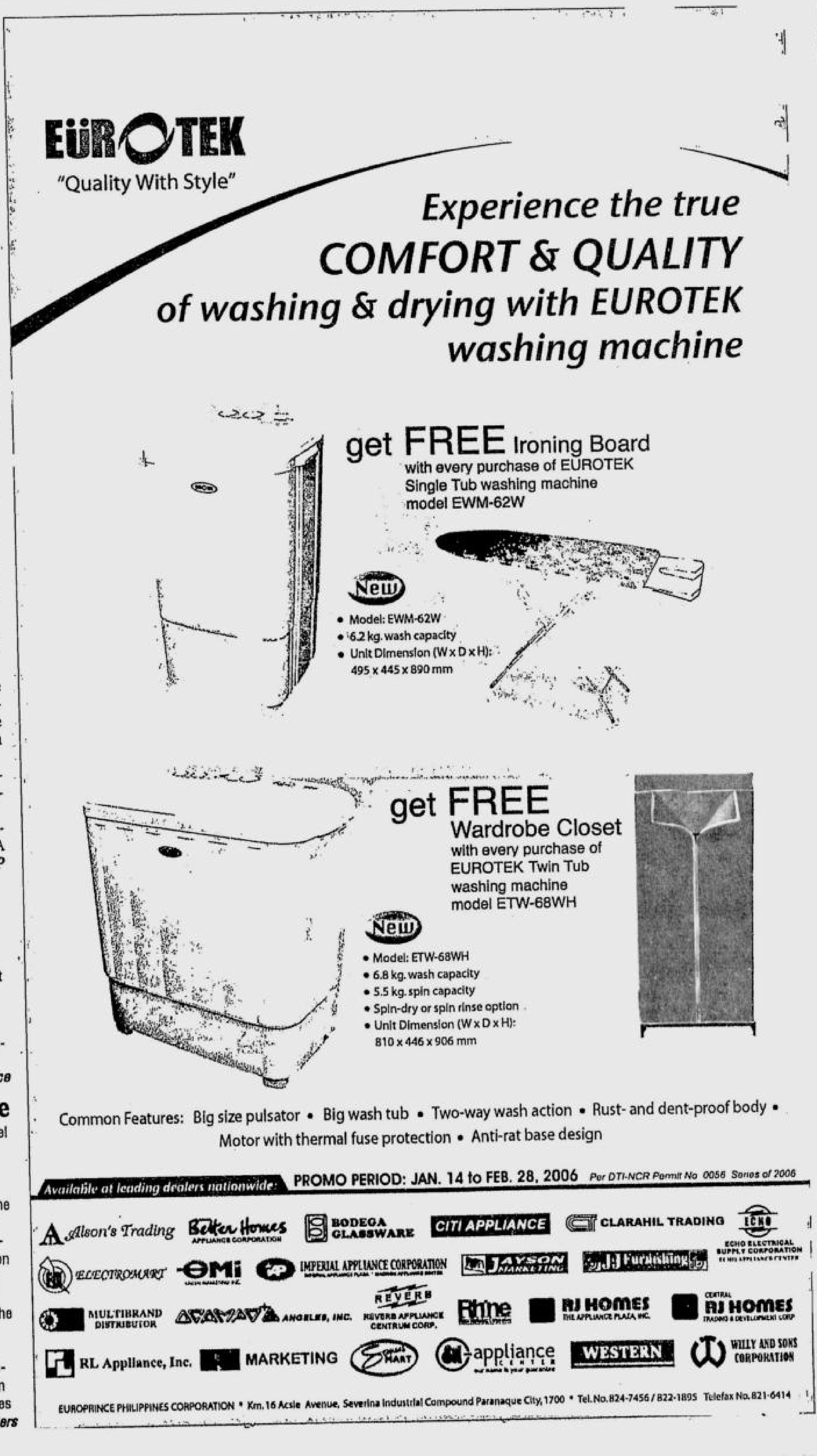
ANKARA—One of two boys who tested positive for bird flu in Turkey has now begun showing symptoms, Turkish officials said on Thursday as experts cautioned the threat of a pandemic is steadily growing. The board of the World Bank endorsed $500 million in aid to help countries deal with H5N1 avian influenza, while US health officials dispersed $100 million for state and local preparedness. The virus, while it is spreading and changing, still poses no immediate threat of a pandemic, but experts stress it could do so at any time. They say it is vital to prepare emergency response teams, stockpile what drugs there are and build up surveillance networks to detect new outbreaks. The H5N1 virus has been found in wild birds and poultry across large parts of Turkey, particularly in poor villages stretching from Istanbul, on the borders of Europe, to Van near the Iranian and Iraqi borders. It has killed three children in Turkey. Globally H5N1 has infected 147 people and killed 78 of them, according to the latest official WHO tally, which includes only four of the Turkish cases. *Reuters*

300 millionth American

Experts estimate that some time this month, a couple, probably white Anglo-Saxon Protestants or Hispanic, will conceive a baby who, when born in October, will become the 300 millionth American. As of Thursday, the Census Bureau officially pegged the resident population of the United States at closing in on 297,900,000. The bureau estimates that with a baby being born every eight seconds, someone dying every 12 seconds and the nation gaining an immigrant every 31 seconds on average, the population is growing by one person every 14 seconds. At that rate, the total is expected to top 300 million late this year. *NYT News Service*

US Supreme Court nominee

WASHINGTON—Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito on Thursday was headed for Senate confirmation despite a protracted effort by combative Democrats to show he would move the court to the right on abortion and other divisive issues. The 55-year-old conservative, unflappable through a four-day ordeal before the Senate Judiciary Committee, deflected most of the direct questioning on abortion rights and the scope of presidential authority. The Republican-led Senate was expected to confirm President George W. Bush's pick for the court as early as next week, and Democrats acknowledged it would be hard to block him. Alito would replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a moderate conservative who often has been the swing vote on abortion and other social issues on the nine-member court. *Reuters*



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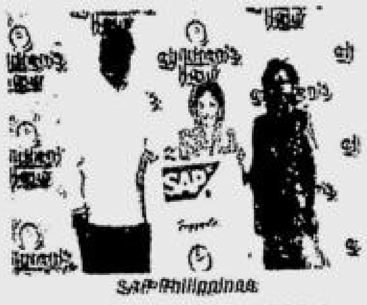
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Children's Hour Philippines, Inc. successfully capped their benefit lunch dubbed as "5 Years of Giving Hope", an annual event organized by the Makati Business Club and sponsored by renowned restaurateur Chef Billy King of Voulez Vous and Francis Lumen of the NBC Tent.

Over 800 people attended the event at the NBC Tent and with the generosity of countless companies and individuals close to 7 million pesos in cash and pledges were presented, all geared to fund projects for Filipino children.

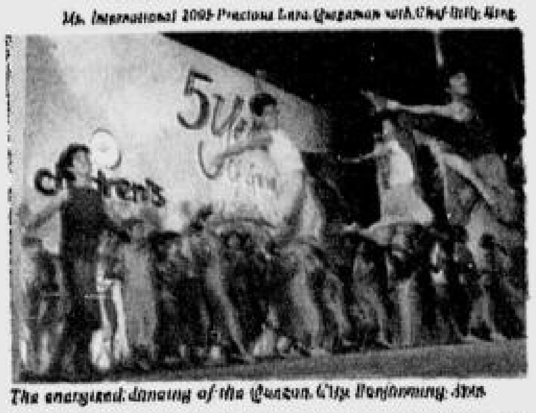
Ms. International 2005, Precious Lara Quigaman, graced the gathering to show her support to the advocacy of Children's Hour. Adding to the event's merriment was the world class music of the internationally acclaimed University of Santo Tomas Singers and the energized dancing provided by the talented children of the Quezon City Performing Arts.

Children's Hour is a fundrasing and grant-giving organization committed to the betterment of the Filipino child. Since 1999, it has raised nearly 120 million pesos and has supported 164 projects that directly benefitted more than 186,000 children all over the Philippines.

Children's Hour supports projects for children in need of special protection in the following areas: formal, non-formal and special education, early childhood care and development, shelter and rehabilitation, psycho-social rehabilitation, foster care and home reintegration assistance, health and nutrition/medical care, and the provision of medical, school or training equipment. Projects must be innovative and pioneering, preferably directed towards underserved and indigenous regions, sustainable, replicable, and should have a mechanism for determining outputs. The results must have direct impact on the child, both physically and mentally, and must address one or more of the four emerging issues: children in conflict with the law, children involved in armed conflict, children of migrant workers and commercial and sexual exploitation of children.

The event was partly sponsored by Advanced Business Concept, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Brooklyn Pizza, Cordillera Coffee, Deli Rio, Green Tomato, Highmark Enterprises, Inc., Hot Loops Donuts, Ilaw at Tunog ni Mon Vitan, Infinit-1 Communications Services, Island Cove Cavite, Johnson & Johnson Phils. Inc., Max's Bakeshop, Microdata Systems and Management, Inc., Nestle Phils. (Chuckie), Picture City, Rupert Signs and Display, Scan Asia Overseas, Inc., Systems Axis, Titania Wine Cellar, Universal Robina Corp. (C2 and Refresh Flavored Drinks), Waterfront Hotel and Casino Cebu, Worldbex Services International, and Versatile Telecoms, Inc.

Ms. International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman with Chef Billy King

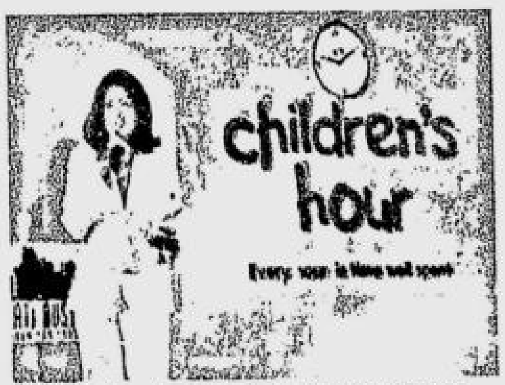

The energized dancing of the Quezon City Performing Arts

The world class music of the University of Santo Tomas Singers

Voulez Vous Chef Billy King (extreme left) receives token from Makati Business Club Chairman Ricardo Romulo (2nd from left). MTI Philippines' Managing Director Jack Madrid (3rd from left), receives token on behalf of Francis Lumen from Children's Hour Chairman Bienvenido Tan Jr.

Makati Business Club Chairman Ricardo Romulo delivering his opening remarks

Children's Hour Chairman of the Board Bienvenido Tan Jr. delivering his closing remarks.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Children's Hour Executive Director Evangeline Mayuga announcing the new beneficiaries

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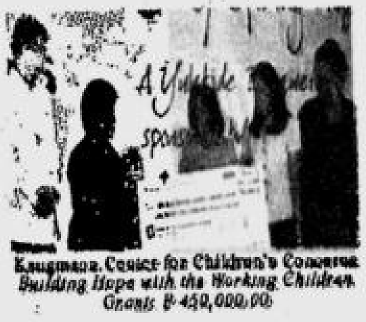
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Grant: ₱200,000.00

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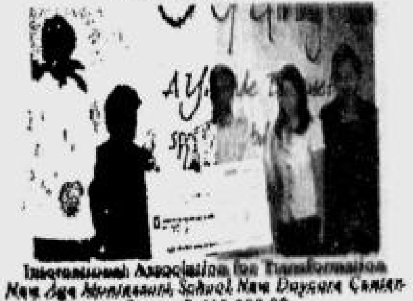
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Pope's attacker freed, but will mysteries be solved?

By Frances d'Emilio

ROME—COULD THE FREEDOM THAT CAME Thursday for the Turk who shot Pope John Paul II help solve the lingering question in the 1981 attack, particularly, who might have been behind the assassination attempt during the Cold War?

Rosario Priore, the Italian magistrate who in 1986 failed to convince a jury in Rome that Bulgaria and the Soviet KGB conspired to kill the Polish-born pope, voiced guarded optimism on Thursday that Mehmet Ali Agca as a free man could reveal the full truth about the shooting.

Among the questions that historians, law enforcement officials and untold admirers of John Paul would like answered is whether any foreign power launched a plot to kill the pontiff, whose championing of the Solidarity labor movement in Poland figured in the demise of communism in the Soviet bloc.

Agca now "is potentially freer to tell the truth," Priore said in an interview with AP Television News.

Agca was released on Thursday from an Istanbul prison, after serving time for the slaying of a Turkish journalist. Italy extradited him to Turkey in 2000 after he had spent nearly 20 years in Italian prisons for shooting John Paul in St. Peter's Square.

But Agca has been notoriously contradictory in what he has said over the decades about the attack on John Paul, and Priore also expressed worry that some might want to use him for their own ends. Agca belonged to the Gray Wolves, a right-wing militant group in Turkey.

"I feel he could return to old networks. He could be, in some sense, attracted by persons who could manipulate him," Priore said. Agca, should he decide to talk, might dredge up "the old versions" about the attack or "versions that are new, that is my fear."

The magistrate also expressed fear Agca could be eliminated by someone.

Priore has said through the years that he is convinced there was a plot against the pope and that Agca did not act alone. In the interview, he expressed hope that the "judicial truth" but "more important, the historical truth," would emerge about the attempt on the pontiff's life.

Agca's statements have both tantalized and frustrated prosecutors over the decades.

The Turk himself suggested that Bulgarians and the KGB were behind the attack, but later backed off that theory.

Italian juries can reach a verdict of outright innocence or can rule that there was not enough evidence to convict, as one jury did in 1986 when it acquitted six defendants—three Bulgarians and three Turks—in the "Bulgarian connection" case.

An Italian appeals trial in 1987 reached the same conclusion.

When Agca was arrested minutes after he shot and gravely wounded the pope, he declared that he had acted alone.

He received a life sentence for the shooting, but the jury, while saying it couldn't back its theory, said in its ruling that the shooting stemmed from "complex plot orchestrated by hidden minds interested in destabilization."

At one point in Italy's long-running investigation of the shooting, Agca was shown a photograph taken in St. Peter's Square that showed a man with a gun fleeing the area after the attack.

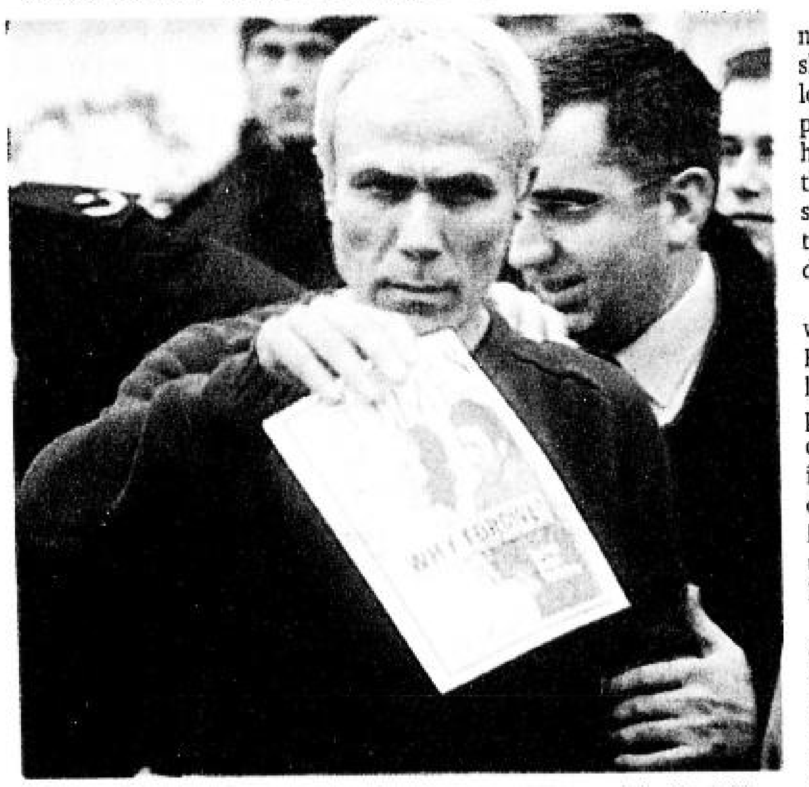
Agca said the man was a Bulgarian accomplice. But later he changed his story and said the man was fugitive Oral Celik, a Turk who was among those acquitted in the 1985-1986 "Bulgarian Connection" trial.

During that trial, Agca declared he was Jesus Christ, and prosecutors contended that his bizarre outbursts led the jury not to believe past declarations about the so-called link to the Soviet sphere.

On the 10th anniversary of the shooting, Agca, in a letter from his Italian prison cell, renewed his allegations that the Bulgarian secret services, backed by the Soviet KGB, ordered the shooting.

In a 2005 interview with Rome daily La Repubblica, Agca alleged that Vatican prelates helped him carry out the shooting, a claim quickly dismissed by Cardinal Roberto Tucci, who used to organize John Paul's travels.

Bulgaria, after the downfall of Soviet-bloc communism, promised full cooperation with efforts to probe the "Bulgarian Connection" theory. *AP*



MEHMET Ali Agca, the Turk who attempted to kill Pope John Paul II in 1981, displays a Time magazine after being freed in Istanbul, Jan. 12. AFP

Sex and the electricity in Iraq

BAGHDAD—AHMED HADI AND HIS NEW wife Tiba Mohammed, like many young married couples in Baghdad, are not getting enough sex. The problem, they say, is not a lack of desire but of power—electrical power.

Making love for many of Iraq's Muslim population not only requires a willing partner but also a sure supply of water—preferably hot in the winter—to enable the participants to take a shower afterward before going to pray.

No hot water means no hot shower and therefore prayers, which take place five times a day for devout Muslims, can become a problem.

Either a couple avoids sex or they are forced to take a cold dip, not a pleasant prospect during the winter months.

"I have less sex than I want because there is no hot water to wash with afterward," moaned Hadi, 25, a Baghdad local who works in the water sector and has only been married for two weeks.

"Sometimes, when we are in the middle of making love the electricity turns off so we have to stop. I get out of bed to put a generator on and then we have to wait for the water to heat up," he told AFP.

On the evening of the Eid'l Adha (Muslim feast of the sacrifice) holiday which started on Tuesday, Hadi had hoped for a night of romance.

"Unfortunately, the electricity cut out from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. There was nothing for us to do other than sit and look at each other. I did not get married just to have conversation," he said.

In contrast to the situation in Iraq, power cuts in Western countries often lead to a spike in births nine months later as couples abandon watching television to share a warm bed.

Baghdad and much of central Iraq are suffering their worst ever electricity shortage, said a Western diplomat with expertise in the electricity sector. The power is on for just two to six hours per day in the capital.

In contrast, southern and northern Iraq—where most of the power stations are based—have more energy than before the US-led invasion when Saddam Hussein used to divert most of the power to Baghdad, depriving everyone else.

Following his downfall in April 2003, US-led and Iraqi projects have been launched to generate permanent power for all of Iraq, but so far they have failed to make much impact.

This is because the US-led coalition underestimated the dilapidated state of Iraq's electricity infrastructure following a decade of international sanctions, the diplomat told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In addition, repair work has been hampered daily by insurgent attacks against transmission lines and power stations.

For normal Iraqis, especially those living in Baghdad, this has resulted in further hardship.

Yasser Mohammed Saffar, a 26-year-old shop owner, and Tamara Shimary, 20, his wife of one year, live together with Safar's parents and two sisters in an apartment in southeastern Baghdad.

He too said the lack of electricity has affected his sex life because there is no hot water in the winter months and no air-conditioning in the summer—another major impediment to a person's libido. *AFP*

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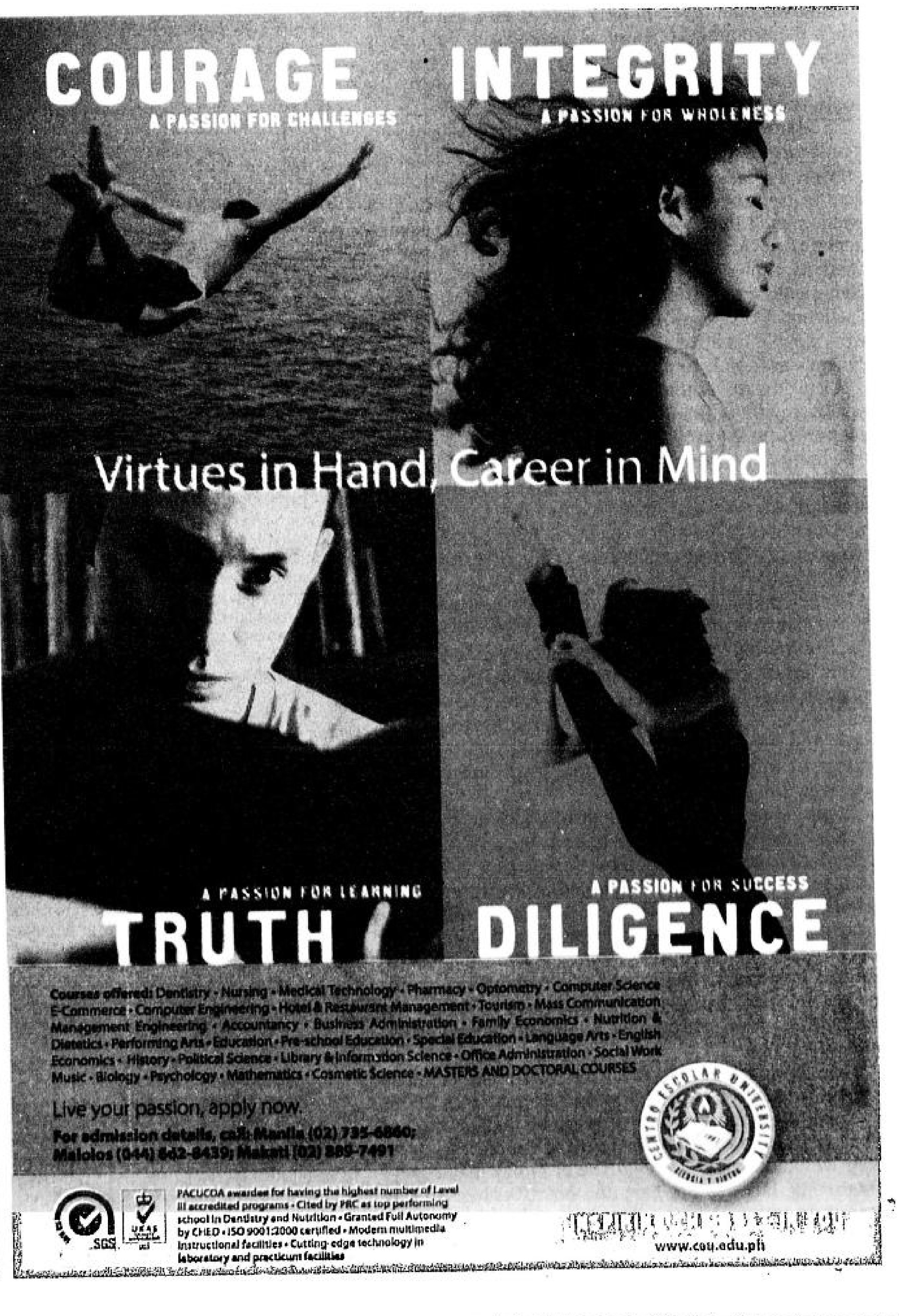

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Pep talk

EDITORIAL

BUDGET SECRETARY ROMULO NERI HAS DISPUTED the results of a Social Weather Stations survey that showed 16.7 percent of Filipino households experienced hunger in the last quarter. He said the respondents might have exaggerated their poverty. His explanation is a variant of the old claim that respondents don't tell the truth in social science polls. Of course, there's also the probability that government planners don't tell the truth when they trumpet claims of economic growth and recovery, but that's beside the point.

As part of the government's economic team, Neri cannot just dismiss a study on self-rated poverty; it is his duty to look for feedback on the government's anti-poverty programs, if only to determine whether they are working in the first place. The survey provides such feedback.

The SWS described the increase in the number of families going hungry—from 15.5 percent to 16.7 percent—as "alarming." The new record, according to the SWS, was due to an increase in "severe hunger." This means some 2.8 million families have "often," if not nearly "always," gone hungry in the last three months. Corollary to this, the proportion of household heads rating themselves "poor" went up to 57 percent from the 49 percent recorded last August, the SWS said.

Notably, the last quarter of the year is ordinarily the period during which bonuses and extra compensation are released. Still, late last year, many Filipinos considered themselves poor, even hungry. It was also last quarter when the economy appeared to have picked up, closing the year with big international reserves and a stronger peso. Obviously, none of these statistics bolstered the confidence and optimism of many Filipinos.

To be sure, the survey findings might have been merely a reflection of the mood of despair that, psychologists say, prevails during the holidays, when some people's loneliness worsens because of the bright mood all around—a phenomenon that has presumably led to a higher incidence of suicide during the Christmas season. But if, indeed, psychology has something to do with respondents giving pollsters a grim picture, then Neri and the rest of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic team should work double time to lift up the mood of the people with concrete economic reforms.

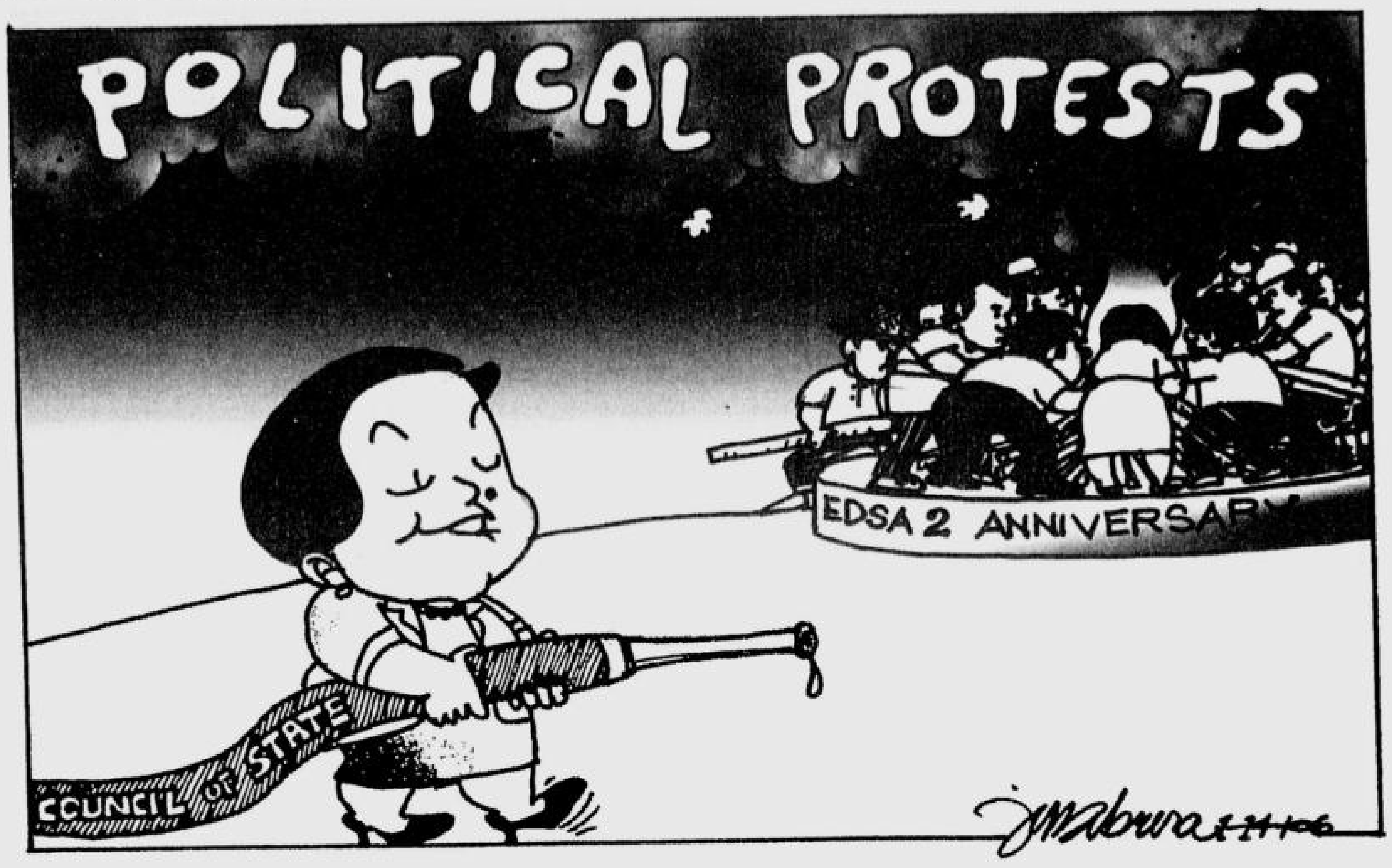
For all the government's loud claims, last year's economic growth, estimated to be 4.9 percent at the most, is a far cry from the growth rate of 5.7 percent in 2004. It is true that last quarter's growth reached 6.5 percent, from 5.7 percent in the same quarter of 2004; but the hike was fueled by the workers' higher remittances. Our labor export may boast astounding statistics, but they are more a symptom of a disease rather than a cure, or an indication of recovery.

Moreover, Philippine economic growth lags behind the rest of Asia. It is paltry compared with those of China, India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, or even Indonesia.

It is not expected to fare better in 2006. According to analysts, the Philippine economy is expected to grow 4.8 percent this year, still behind the rest of Asia, except Thailand. And it is expected to be propelled by dollar remittances, as in recent past, from the 10 million Filipinos overseas.

Domestic growth—the number of goods and services produced in the country—has been in the doldrums. Exports for example rose by merely 2.9 percent in the first 10 months of 2005 to P33.6 billion. Despite the generally good weather conditions last year, agriculture didn't perform quite as well as it had in the previous year—indicating that the obstacles to agricultural growth are not natural but man-made, like monopolies, corruption, inefficiency and poor planning. Manufacturers didn't do too well either, their performance hampered by smuggling and piracy.

Therefore, it is not inconceivable that many Filipinos indeed went severely hungry in the last quarter of 2005; and that their impression of their going hungry and becoming poor was not just the result of a mood swing, as Neri would like us to believe. The economy may not be stagnating, but it is not hale and hearty either. All this trumpeting of economic achievements by Neri is mere pep talk to counter the mood swing. But no amount of pep talk can ever revive the economy.



Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SOME READERS HAVE ASKED ME WHY, AS A former member of the Supreme Court, I have not written anything about the late Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma. The reason is that so much has already been said about her exemplary life and achievements, all in deserved praise, that I felt anything I would say would be sheer superfluity.

The excellent tributes paid her at her necrological services at the Supreme Court last week, particularly by Justices Flerida Ruth Romero, Ameurfina Melencio-Herrera and Carolina Griño-Aquino, her worthy successors on the high tribunal to which she was the first female jurist to be appointed, practically said it all except for one observation I will here make.

Everybody now knows that President Marcos made a mistake when he appointed Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, probably thinking that as a woman she would be tractable and easily handled. She was not, definitely not, prompting then Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos to call her an "*ingrata*." (In fairness to Abad Santos, he himself became an ingrate when, after being elevated to the high tribunal by Marcos, he also often criticized his benefactor like Justices Claudio Teehankee and Palma.)

In the case of Sanidad v. Commission on Elections, 73 SCRA 333, the issue posed was the validity of a referendum called by Marcos on his presidential decree proposing amendments to the Constitution. Expectedly, the majority of the Supreme Court obediently supported him, but Justices Teehankee and Palma, also as expected, refused to be similarly indulgent. The latter concluded her dissenting opinion with the following worrisome prediction:

"I must be forgiven if, not concerned with the present, I am haunted however by what can happen in the future, when we shall all be gone." (If I may digress a bit, was she fearing for our present?) "Verily, this is a matter of grave concern which necessitates full, mature, sober deliberation of the people but which they can do only in a climate of freedom without the restraints of martial law."

Justice Celing, as she was affectionately called by her colleagues as well as thousands of admirers who did not even know her personally, expressed her independence of mind in many other cases, especially the habeas corpus petition against the continued detention of Sen. Jose W. Diokno without any charges being filed against him. Unable to make any credible excuse, Marcos merely employed his usual tactic to disarm judicial challenge to his abuses. The despot simply ordered Diokno's release, thus making the case moot and academic.

Its dismissal saved Marcos the unanswerable denunciation contained in Justice Palma's original dissenting opinion that, together with Justice Teehankee's also forceful tirade, would have aggravated public resentment against the dictatorship. In grieving for Diokno upon his death after Edsa I, the nation also remembered the female jurist who had championed him on the Supreme Court.

Admiration for Justice Palma increased, inspired mostly by the fact that she was a woman, a member of the weaker sex, defending the ramparts of justice against the majority of her subservient colleagues. Careful to keep in the good graces of Marcos, who could not only inflict unrestrained vengeance against those who opposed him but also reward those who unctuously praised him, these sycophants tried their best to persuade her to join them in their toadyism.

Of course, they failed; Justice Palma remained unconvinced. She held fast to her convictions and is now remembered in gratitude, while those who sat against her to fawn upon their arrogant master have been dismissed by history as craven opportunists. By contrast, she has risen to the honored stature of a modern heroine, a model of women in general and especially of female lawyers, a symbol of probity in public office, and a steadfast defender of the rule of law against those who would scorn and violate it.

As a private person, she was a devoted wife to her beloved Rodong, our dean and friend at the UE College of Law, the solicitous mother of their three children, and unfailingly courteous to all, including the cohorts of the dictatorship she despised.

And so this is the observation I will now take from my brief account of her life and works in my "Res Gestae, a Brief History of the Supreme Court from Arellano to Narvasa." It is not a soaring exaltation of her sterling credentials but a naughty description of her male colleagues whose cowardice impressed in bold relief the quiet wisdom and indomitable patriotism of Justice Celing:

"Muñoz-Palma was now being regarded as a formidable ally of Teehankee in opposing the abuses of the martial law regime. The rumor began to grow that Marcos was regretting his appointment of the lady justice who was proving to be more courageous than her male colleagues on the Court. The down-to-earth comparison was more anatomical than polite and cannot be repeated in this work."

Sorry, Madame Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, but they really deserved that devastating joke. Albeit not in good taste, it was as caustic—and as truthful—as your dissenting opinions.

Same public opinion on parliamentary system

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I WAS EXTREMELY PUZZLED AND DISTURBED when the fourth-quarter SWS survey on Charter change came out. As reported by media, the survey showed a sea change in the public opinion on Charter change: 54 percent of the people approved of Charter change (provided Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo steps down before 2010); people were no longer adamant about directly electing the chief executive; and the parliamentary system was no longer a no-no.

The puzzlement arose from the fact that barely two months earlier, the Pulse Asia survey showed that more than half (55 percent) of the Filipinos, give or take three percentage points, did *not* want the Constitution amended at this time; that about 60 percent of them were *not* in favor of a parliamentary system, a proportion that has remained remarkably steady at least over the past two years. What could have happened in the two-month period between the surveys that changed the people's minds?

The only thing I can think of—and this is what disturbs me, because it would imply that the Filipino people are so easily misled—is that the lies being spread about the advantages of Charter change, in particular, the shift to a parliamentary system (i.e., it will cure poverty, unemployment, incompetence and everything else ailing us) are effective.

Well, guess what, folks. It turned out—and looking at the survey questions themselves will bear this out—that the SWS survey did not ask the people whether they wanted to change the Constitution or not. Neither did it ask whether the people wanted a parliamentary system or not. The survey questions, near as I can translate them, totally set that issue aside, by the prefatory sentence: "Any changes to the Constitution would have to be approved by the people before becoming effective." Only after this introductory statement was the actual question asked.

The SWS' reason for asking questions in this manner is stated in its report: "To understand public opinion about a proposed revision of the Constitution, it is important to ask survey respondents one or more questions about each separate component of the revision, as SWS has been doing, and not merely for an overall YES or NO to the entire package.

"Such questions would serve to predict ratification or rejection of individual amendments, if the electorate were allowed to vote on separate amendments in the plebiscite for the purpose.

"On the other hand, in case a new proposed Constitution will be presented for ratification in toto by the Filipino people, as was done in February 1987, then the way to predict the outcome would be by likewise asking for a single YES or NO in a pre-plebiscite survey.

"Nevertheless, so as not to only predict but also analyze the expected outcome, one would still need data on the public's awareness of, and opinions about, each of the separate components of the constitutional revision package."

That is all very well and good.

But if that were indeed the rationale for the questions to the respondents, one has to wonder at how the question on a parliamentary system—which is really the major, if not the only, proposed structural change to the Constitution—was posed. While the question on economic liberalization was direct—do you favor (etc.) the lessening of restrictions on foreign participation in the economy?—the question on parliamentary system was: do you favor... a change letting the chief executive be voted by the legislators instead of directly by voters? (Nota Bene: the word "parliament" or "parliamentary" does not appear in the question.)

One has to wonder what the response would have been if what had been asked were: Do you favor a change where the legislators are also the executives? Or, do you favor a change where the legislators are also members of the Cabinet? One does not have to wonder what the response would be if the question had been put even more directly: Are you in favor of a change to a parliamentary system (defined in an appropriate manner)?

And one has to wonder why, given that the subject matter was constitutional change, there was a disproportionate number of questions on GMA—to the extent that where for two years the question was whether one approved or disapproved of allowing past presidents to become prime minister, the current formulation only names Arroyo. The answer to that question, by the way, must have discombobulated Arroyo-haters: Where 55 percent of respondents disapproved of past presidents becoming prime minister (in August 2005), significantly less (43 percent) disapproved of GMA becoming prime minister. Horrors!

And let's face it, no way will the legislators allow the public to vote on each individual "reform." Why? Because even assuming heroically that this would be feasible, the likelihood of the parliamentary shift being approved, which is what they really want, is minimal. The Pulse Asia study shows that public opinion is against it by more than 2 to 1, a ratio that hasn't changed in more than two years. The only chance of having the parliamentary shift approved is to package it with other, more attractive, changes.

Therefore, the SWS survey notwithstanding, there has been no change in public opinion. Filipinos are still against constitutional change at this time, and neither has anything changed in their stance against a parliamentary system. So all that the SWS survey has done is give comfort to the constitutional change advocates and Gloria-haters—except that this is really cold comfort.

Books

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN RICKY CARANDANG'S MAIDEN INTERVIEW in his brand-new TV program, "The Big Picture," Speaker Jose de Venecia sounded like the perpetual optimist that he is. He looked back over the past 15 years since he began espousing the shift to the parliamentary/unicameral form of government and scanned the prospects of this political course for the country. Ever the super-salesman, JDV relentlessly underscored the strengths of the new system as exemplified by so many progressive countries around the world, as well as the possible ways to implement the shift here. Carandang could only nod in agreement. But in reality, the sea of public opinion through which JDV has to navigate his advocacy is full of tricky shoals, and this veteran politico would need all his vaunted skills to maneuver through all these obstacles. The trickiest among them is how to convince the senators to look beyond self-preservation so they can see the merits of this system.

* * *

JDV batted for the French model where a strong president and a transition prime minister will share government powers. Thus, he cemented his position squarely behind President Macapagal-Arroyo. But after 2010, said JDV, the fulcrum shifts to a powerful PM and a "ceremonial" President, as in the British model. And herein lies the conflict between JDV and former President Ramos, who reportedly continues to advocate GMA's fadeaway, despite the cognac and chocolates and the toothy photos of last Wednesday evening's "win-win" dinner at the Macapagals' Forbes Park home.

All eyes will be on today's meeting of the Lakas national directorate at the Manila Hotel. My own guess is that FVR will bow to the majority decision to uphold JDV's formula, and that the softening factor would be in the top party leaders' interpretation of power-sharing between the President and the transition PM.

* * *

While the politicos play their tug-of-war, let's talk about things that delight the heart, such as books. Among the cherished Christmas gifts my husband and I got were several excellent and handsomely produced books. One is "Living Landscapes and Cultural Landmarks," by architect and INQUIRER columnist Augusto F. Villalon, with photographs by Neil Oshima. It features all the World Heritage Sites in the Philippines, including Vigan, the Rice Terraces, Tubbataha Reef Marine National Park and the Puerto Princesa Underground River. An appreciation gift from ING Bank for 15 years of successful business here, the documenting of RP heritage sites took 16 years to finish.

* * *

Another gift-book is "Through Food & Memories"—subtitled "A Compilation of Our Family's Favorite Recipes"—charmingly put together by members of the huge Aboitiz-Moraza clan now living in various parts of the world. The family cookbook features very doable recipes cooked and photographed in their homes. Some recipes are featured in the original handwriting, reminding me so much of the penmanship of my mother's generation, with its careful, upright strokes. This shows that the Aboitizes grew up—and old—with these recipes—literally eating their way to family solidarity for generations. What a splendid idea.

A gift-book from Doris Magsaysay-Ho of Magsaysay Lines is on her famous painter-mother, titled "Anita Magsaysay-Ho, In Praise of Women." Written by art critic Alfredo Roces, it traces the evolution of this esteemed artist from her bucolic childhood vacations in her native Zambales, through her UP education and her independent struggle to perfect her craft in the United States. The book encompasses over 300 works of art that celebrate "the splendor of women as they go about their daily work with reverence and joy." Some paintings are annotated by Magsaysay-Ho herself.

* * *

Another book (available by Feb. 1) is "Personalizing Russia"—with the subtitle "(even by those who know her little but love her much)"—written by Carmelite Sister Teresa Joseph Patrick of Jesus and Mary, formerly Prof. Josefina Constantino, one of the great UP professors in the '50s and '60s. Her two-volume 600-page set is a sequel to her first 94-page work about Russia, titled "Sunburst in Parched, Snowy Russia," which she wrote following her two-and-a-half months' stay in Moscow in 1994. At that time, the nun delivered three talks on such subjects as ecology and aesthetics; science, religion and monastic culture, and the Philippines as part of Nu Santara or the old Madjapahit Empire. "Personalizing Russia," as Sister Teresa told this columnist, is a "smorgasbord of a book": after the introduction, the reader can chose to read any chapter that strikes his fancy because every chapter is complete in itself. Chapter II, for instance, is a tribute to Jaime Cardinal Sin, in commemoration of his highly successful 1987 visit to Russia, whose Christianity he described as a "Marian Christianity." There are also many "*kwento*-style" stories such as her pilgrimage to Vilnius and her meeting with Mother Teresa's sisters in St. Petersburg. But the author does not neglect the incredible phenomenon of the collapse of the Soviet Empire and the awakening of the Russian people to the challenge of rehabilitation and renaissance.

Sister Teresa admits that what triggered this book was the late Pope John Paul II's frustration at not being able to visit Moscow and make a personal love-offering of the most cherished Russian icon (Our Lady of Kazan) to Russian Patriach Alexy II. She said that when she read about his frustration, "The Spirit tugged relentlessly in my heart and gave me no peace." She began this book when JPII was already sick and she prayed that "through the Spirit's guidance, I might be able to contribute this tiny, tiny effort toward the same end" of reconciliation between the Orthodox and Latin Churches.

Tagaytay weddings

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DRIVING FROM THE TAGAYTAY ROTUNDA TO Sonya's Garden in Alfonso, one spots signs and banners posted on various street corners: "This way to the XYZ-ABC wedding," "To reception of 123-456 Wedding," "Welcome Guests to the MMM-NNN Nuptials!"

If one ever needed proof that Tagaytay is fast becoming a popular venue for weddings, these signs were it, for aside from the celebrations in rather obscure locales—thus the need for directional signs—there were other weddings in better-known sites.

One of these was the wedding of Judy Ann Cruz and Angelo Malabanan last Jan. 7, for which my brothers and sisters and I and our spouses had made the trip. Judy Ann, known as Jay, is the daughter of Annie Masakayan Cruz and her late husband Danny, who is the brother of Willie, my sister Chona's husband. Even by the extremely wide scope of Filipino kinship ties, our links to the newlyweds are tenuous at best. But our relationship with Annie and her family defies the strict boundaries of blood ties, which was why we were all there that chilly, rainy weekend.

Chona and her family had even come all the way from Virginia for the wedding, which had been in the works since early last year. Chona was one of the principal sponsors, her daughter Cesi was a maid of honor, and the two boys Rico and Alan were readers. Willie was to stand in for his brother, since Jay had earlier declared it had been her childhood dream to be walked down the aisle by her dad.

* * *

THE WEDDING rituals were held at the newly-constructed Our Lady of Lourdes Church, just a few meters from the rotunda. The whole row of us, Jimenez women, started tearing up the moment we saw Willie take Jay's arm and escort her to her waiting groom—as did most of the women sponsors, reported Chona.

But weddings are inherently happy occasions, and even the unexpected showers failed to dampen the joy and warmth of the wedding party. The dinner reception was held at the gardens of the family-owned Josephine's Restaurant, and fortunately the wedding planners had the foresight to erect white tents with colorful garlanded awnings.

Only in Tagaytay and, perhaps, Baguio would a tea-and-coffee bar be necessary, for the relief of chilled guests—though the buffet, including a whole roasted calf, was substantial enough to warm us.

While most of the guests chose to drive up to and from Tagaytay that same day, a number of us, including our party, decided to make an entire weekend of it. Through the years, given Tagaytay's growing popularity as a tourist destination, numerous hotels, inns, and "bed-and-breakfast" places have sprouted in the city and environs. The wedding party itself was billeted at the Days Hotel, mainly to be near the church; while Annie's extended family stayed in their condominium units at Tagaytay Royale. In fact, Annie hosted a post-wedding brunch at the Tagaytay Royale Clubhouse for everyone who stayed overnight, extending the celebration and camaraderie.

* * *

I WENT up to Tagaytay the day before the wedding with Chona and her family. I had booked us at the Lavender Cottage of Sonya's Bed and Breakfast, which is the biggest cottage in her complex of 10 quaint "shabby chic" structures.

Sonya's has become well-known among the family, since I make it a point to bring to the place friends and relatives visiting from abroad; and almost always it has created a most favorable impression. In fact, Cesi told me that her cousin Fani, my late sister Neneng's daughter, called her from Arizona just to tell her to make sure to ask me to bring them to Sonya's. It would be an experience "you'll never forget," Fani said.

And indeed, by the end of our stay, Cesi and her husband Rob were vowing to make a return visit and to stay longer at Sonya's, perhaps at one of the two "honeymoon" cottages.

On our first night, after a dinner of Sonya's usual menu supplemented by tender roasted chicken, we each went for a full-body massage at the in-house Spa, a most fortunate decision as it proved to be the best pre-slumber ritual.

An overnight package at Sonya's includes a substantial and delicious breakfast, including *daing na bangus* and *adobo* cooked two ways. Which was fortunate, because the day was packed with activity, what with the arrival of the rest of the family, and rushing back and forth across Tagaytay, including going for hair and make-up preparations at the local David's Salon, not to mention the wedding itself.

* * *

ON THE SAME evening of the wedding, Sonya's also played host to the birthday party of interior designer Sonia Olivares, who brought about a hundred guests for dinner and dancing at the Conservatory, a large glass pavilion that combines a dining area with an indoor garden. A recent addition is the "water curtain," a continuously flowing stream of water down the glass ceiling and walls, which also serves to lower the temperature inside.

"Didn't you hear the racket we were making?" Sonya asked me the next morning. In truth, we could not because we were making our own racket, having surprised Chona on her birthday with an impromptu cake-and-wine reception.

The next morning, Sonya took us for a look-see at the preparations for the party of another client, a combined 35th wedding anniversary and a religious rite for the couple's daughter and her husband who had married abroad. The Mass was to be celebrated in Sonya's main greenhouse, a most charming setting amid pots of herbs and shrubs, with the altar planted under a natural awning of Morning Glory and ivy, and guests seated on rustic benches.

We "girls" all mentally reviewed what occasions we could use as an excuse to hold a similar event in the greenhouse. Another reason to wed—or re-wed—in chilly, charming Tagaytay.

Of the old nobility (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IF YOU REMEMBER, DATU PAGBUAYA RULED Bohol and the island of Pagbilao after his brother, Dailisan, was killed in the battle with the Terrenates. Pagbuaya pledged loyalty to Legaspi in 1565 and converted to Christianity. He had a son, Manooc, eventually known as Don Pedro Manuel Manooc; and a daughter, Doña Magdalena Baluyot. Our story concerns this woman who beckons to us from across the centuries.

The religious orders, especially in the early days of their evangelization work in the Philippines, did not have enough friars for the missions. Four years after the opening of the Butuan mission, the Jesuit superior opted for some retrenchment and wrote to the bishop in Cebu, offering to return the mission to the secular clergy. By 1600, there was only one Jesuit left in Butuan. Two years later, a Portuguese secular, who was unfortunately as corrupt as the *encomiendero* Francisco de Poso, took over. Between the two of them, they managed to turn the converts against Spain and everyone connected with it. When the people revolted, the two paid with their lives.

Under Silongan, then the most powerful of the datus, the rebels joined the Caragans who had the reputation for being nasty and bloodthirsty. The latter had been having a field day pillaging the coastal villages of Leyte and the Camotes Islands. They had even kidnapped the parish priest of Dulag in Leyte, keeping him in Cotabato. (In the account of Fr. Melchor Hurtado's capture, it is said that at first he hid in the hollow of a tree, which was formed by enormous roots that rose from the earth. Unfortunately, due to incessant logging—legal and illegal—neither you nor I nor any of our descendents will ever see a tree of that grandness in this country.) A corsair dragged him to the beach in Dulag where he was presented to Buisan, (also known as Capitan Laut—captain of the high seas—by his people), the leader of the raiding armada. Corralat or Kudarat was Buisan's son, who eagerly anticipated the ransom. The journey to Mindanao took five months. When a force under Gen. Juan de la Vega was sent after them, they merely retreated to the mountains and avoided battle.

In this state of war, the people living along the coasts of Surigao, Davao and the Agusan River also went into hiding. The Jesuits were naturally upset and asked the local authorities not to use force but to let Fr. Fabricio Sarsali try to win Silongan back. (If you will recall, Silongan was mentioned by Miguel de Loarca in an account, dated 1582, telling his father, the datu, to send samples of gold in two bamboo tubes, thick as a man's leg, for the captain-general in Manila. In another chronicle, Fr. Pedro Chirino, S.J., related a story about Silongan's bravery. It is said that he went to the riverbank of the Butuan River unaccompanied "with dignified pace and somber garb, carrying a fan," to watch two Spanish ships carrying a bridal party. When the soldiers saw him they opened fire to scare him, not really to harm him. But that caused him neither agitation nor anger "than if the matter were some jest which he disregarded." Such was the man's reputation for bravery.)

Accompanied by an armed escort provided by the governor of Cebu, Father Sarsali went to Butuan but found the settlement there abandoned. He and his companions had no way of getting in touch with Silongan. This worried them because they knew that whoever Silongan sided—whether he goes for or against Spain—his people would follow. He was after all the most respected of the chiefs.

At this point, Father Sarsali suggested getting in touch with Doña Magdalena Baluyot, who was known to have had much influence with the Subanos. Through her power of persuasion rather than by force of arms, she had earlier convinced them to receive the missionaries. This time, Doña Magdalena was again asked to intercede and to reassure Silongan that he had nothing to fear. The story goes that she rowed herself in a *baroto* (banca) through mangrove swamps to look for Silongan, calling on him to come out into the open and talk things over. Thanks again to her power of persuasion, she was able to convince him to see Father Sarsali alone on an islet. Before the meeting, Silongan's people furtively observed the priest from their hiding places in the thickets and from treetops. When they saw the priest was alone, they reconnoitered the river. Assured thus that the priest was truly all by himself, Silongan appeared.

Silongan embraced the Jesuit who assured him all was forgiven. Thus without shedding a drop of blood, Butuan was returned to the fold. It was explained to the captain and his soldiers that it was important to treat the prince properly and to preserve his friendship so that all his subjects would be converted as well. Without him, conversion would be impossible.

A demonstration of Silongan's power was displayed when he was requested to return to his home and in six hours a town arose, complete with streets and houses. Under his orders his people went to work: some raising house posts, others thatching roofs, still others constructing the walls. It is also told that he had five wives and was able to give up three of them. But there was one concubine that he was unusually fond of, and that one he kept much to the regret of the Jesuits.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Different, that's all

YOUNG BLOOD

Ning Sardillo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY BROTHER WILL PROBABLY NOT APPROVE OF WHAT I am going to say. He berates me for not treating myself better. Or maybe it's because I whine a lot. It does not matter.

There are days when I wish I were "normal." But normalcy is relative. So, the logical question to ask is, "By whose standards?"

Not by my standards. I wish I were "normal" by society's standards. My life would be less complicated, I'm pretty sure of that.

But I really like being me. And that's the problem. I want to be less of me; and more like other people. Yet, I am reluctant to let "me" go. It's not easy being me.

Maybe that's the reason why God loves me so much. He probably finds me quite amusing. He has a good sense of humor. Most people don't know that about Him. But try being me for a few hours, and you will be convinced that God has a good sense of humor.

I am not better. I am not worse. I am just different. I wish I were not so different. Better yet, I wish people were more tolerant of aberrations. I wish people were less hurtful and more tolerant of things and people they don't understand. I wish people would just let me be. I wish they could just leave God and me alone. I wish I were the person that God has always wanted me to be.

I'm not better, compared to other people. Deep down, I believe that there's a better version of me. I also know that I could be that better version of me. I just have to find her, like her and be her.

See? Who needs these thoughts? Why do I feel compelled to find and be the better version of me? Why do I long for more?

Why does God love me when most people can't seem to tolerate my presence? Will I ever be "normal" by society's standards? Will society ever be "normal" by my standards?

But, life is too precious and too short to waste, right? What I'm desperately trying to say is this: I do not want to wait for the time when society finally approves of me. I cannot afford to wait. I do not have the luxury of time. Call me a pessimist, but I seriously doubt if that will ever happen.

My parents believe that I am their most unreasonable child. I refuse to change for other people. This is non-negotiable.

I would be lying if I were to say that my life has just been dandy because of my stubbornness. It has not been easy. I kid you not.

My simplistic take on my seeming dissatisfaction is the fact that I have always been scared to show off the traits that set me apart from the rest of the world. I've always been ashamed to be different.

I offer no quick fix for people like me. I'm not big on dishing out advice, because every person is different. I may share something in common with another girl or boy, but I am still different. So, what might work for me may not necessarily work for the next person.

Let me, however, share what I intend to do with the rest of my life. I am making peace with the fact that I am different.

At 28, I have never had a boyfriend. And it's not because I'm gay. My first passion was Math, but I am a lawyer by profession. I'm chubby, but I enjoy wall climbing and running very much. When I am depressed, I run to the nearest church or chapel to be with God. When I feel like I've hit rock bottom, I close my eyes and imagine being hugged by Jesus (and it works). I say a very short prayer, which goes something like this: "Please, don't let go. I need your help."

I love books. I don't care much for clothes. I get dizzy shopping for clothes. I like to drive really fast. More than the speed, I like the feel of the wind against my face. (Of course, I can only do this when the streets are practically deserted.).

I like to be alone some days with my thoughts. I cannot cook—even if my life depended on it. If the fate of the world depended on my cooking, I am sorry the world as we know it would just cease to exist. I can, however, fix a decent cup of coffee, tea or milk.

I'm probably the only Filipino who does not enjoy eating rice and it's not even because I am on a diet. I love fish—the live ones and especially when they're cooked.

I love to laugh and believe that my life is one telenovela. I'm hard-headed and naughty, but sweet and loyal to those who bother to stick around.

I am all this and more. Just call me "confusion personified," because that is what I am.

And I'm pretty sure that the people around me—my family and friends—are always in a state of confusion, too.

Let me say it again and this time with as much pride as I can muster: "My name is Ning. I am different."

I do not know where my adventure will bring me. But I am glad that God will keep me company all throughout my journey.

I am sure God will beckon me to come home when I have finally learned the lessons and lived out my purpose.

See?

Strange as I may appear, I'm sure I'm also just like everyone else. I'm just trying to figure out my purpose for being. Like everyone else, I cry when I'm hurt. I also try to laugh every chance I get.

Here's the thing: To be the kind of person that God wants me to be is, I think, no different from aspiring to be the best daughter, sister and friend.

I forgot to mention something else about me: I can't sing, but I love to listen to all kinds of music. On that note, let me quote from my favorite song, "I Don't Wanna Be," by Gavin DeGraw. It goes like this:

I don't want to be anything other than what I've been trying to be lately
All I have to do is listen to me and I've peace of mind
I'm tired of looking 'round rooms wondering what I gotta do
Or who I'm supposed to be
I don't want to be anything other than me.

Ning Sardillo, 29, got her master of laws from Georgetown University and now works in a law firm based in Makati.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Independent Supreme Court?

THE UNPRECEDENTED LEGACY of Hilario Davide Jr. as Chief Justice is that, during his watch, the Supreme Court, for the first time in its history, obtained millions of dollars in loans and grants from foreign funding institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank (WB), the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid) and the European Community (EU).

In a recent ADB-sponsored forum, Justice (now Chief Justice) Artemio Panganiban proudly mentioned these loans and grants, but he did not state how much each foreign funding institution had given the Supreme Court. Neither did he state the total loans and grants the Supreme Court had received. Not being a money-making institution, it is not also clear how the Supreme Court will pay its foreign debts.

In his valedictory talk as Chief Justice, Davide claimed that under his leadership the Supreme Court kept its "independence." From Malacañang and Congress? If he really did, he merely complied with Section 3, Article VIII of the Constitution which reads: "The judiciary shall enjoy fiscal autonomy. Appropriations for the Judiciary may not be reduced by the legislature below the amount appropriated for the previous year and, after approval, shall be automatically and regularly released."

In other words, the Constitution expressly shields the judiciary from legislative and executive meddling. But is the judiciary, including the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice, immune from the molestations of foreign funding institutions to which the Supreme Court is indebted? After all, these foreign funding institutions are known lobbyists for behind-the-scene arm-twisters in the service of transnational interest? Why should the Supreme Court open itself to the predatory maneuvers of foreign-funding institutions by obtaining foreign loans and grants?

In the interest of transparency and accountability, is it not fitting and proper that the Panganiban Court make public exactly how much in loans and in grants the Davide Court got?

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
Unit 301 Union Square
Condominium,
145 15th Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City

Maria Claras in UP's streaking festival

SOME YEARS BACK, A GROUP OF male streakers paraded their naked bodies inside the UP campus to the delight of salivating homosexuals and shrieking young women. For a while, I viewed that part of the University of the Philippines as a jungle inhabited by Indian tribes from the remote virgin forests of Brazil, forgetting that it was a prime institution of learning in the country.

The scene was repeated a couple of times perhaps, and the public was hopeful that through the efforts of both the UP president and the chief of UP police, this barbaric display of exhibitionism would finally come to an end.

But with a woman President at the university's helm, UP's annual streaking festival has gone from bad to worse; and now it is held with the participation of our so-called Maria Claras. What a shame to our Filipino culture of modesty.

It is about time for the president of UP and its chief of police to tender their resignation of apathy.

—MAJ. RB MORATA (ret) PC,
104 Chico St., Comembo,
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

Gov't duplicity on coco levy scam

MORE POWER TO THE AUTHOR of the article titled "Unleashing the coco potential." (PDI, 1/2/06)

The coco levy scam is the biggest tragedy that befell the Filipino coconut farmers. The sad part is that the perpetrators of this scam are blatantly thumbing their noses at the Filipino people despite the Supreme Court decision declaring the coco levy a public fund.

I come from a family whose main source of income used to be the coconut farm, and I have witnessed the arrogance of the perpetrators during the Marcos regime. I am sick to the stomach every time I come across news reports that seem to suggest that they are getting away with it in spite of the People Power Revolution.

I am totally disgusted every time I sense the duplicity of government officials playing politics with this fund for political expediency. I just wish to God that they will realize what is right and what is wrong in this world. But, maybe, it is too much to ask for from our current government leaders who are clearly of mediocre stuff.

—EUCLID DAYANGHIRANG,
epsd2001@yahoo.com

Chief Justice's 'non-interventionism'

IN THE INQUIRER'S DEC. 23, 2005 issue, it was reported that the newly appointed Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban "vowed to steer the Supreme Court away from the controversial 'interventionist' policy of his predecessor."

Quite frankly, and with due respect, I do not clearly understand what the Chief Justice means by "interventionist" policy. If he was referring to non-interference by the Supreme Court on "political questions," this has been a long established rule of law, not merely a policy. The Supreme Court has consistently held that it is without authority to determine political questions. (Tañada vs. Cuenco L-16520, Feb. 28,1965) So, no new policy need be set on this.

But on Page 5 of the same issue, there was mention of at least four business contracts and one legislative enactment set aside by the Supreme Court either for graft and corruption or unconstitutionality. These were cited as examples of the Supreme Court's intervention in business.

It is my humble view that the Supreme Court has every right and authority, drawn from the Constitution, to nullify contracts or transactions entered into by the other departments or agencies of the government, when these are tainted with graft and corruption. Must the Supreme Court wash its hands on irregular and graft-ridden government contracts simply because they are related to economic or finance policies/programs of either the executive or legislative branches? Who will then protect the people against plunderers of public resources?

The Constitution defines judicial power as "the duty of the courts of justice to settle controversies involving rights which are legally demandable and enforceable, and to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government." (Sec. 1, Article VIII, Phil. Constitution)

So long as there is a justiceable issue within the purview of judicial power, the Supreme Court must take cognizance and rule thereon. It is its duty to the people and God. It cannot be recreant to such duty by the simple expedient of a so-called "non-interventionist" policy.

I hope the Chief Justice will clarify what he means by "non-interventionist" policy.

—REX G. RICO,
4/F Cattleya Condominium,
235 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

WTO's agenda a sham

THIS IS TO CORRECT CERTAIN MISINTERpretations in the news report titled "Group of 90 developing nations wins first round in WTO battle." (PDI, 12/20/05)

I never said that the World Trade Organization's 6th Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong was a "first-round win" for the developing countries. In the WTO, developing and least developed countries (LDCs) have never won a round. At the most, negotiations fail or get bogged down (Seattle, 1999; Cancun, 2002), buying some time for developing countries to prepare for globalization's next assault on their markets. The approved WTO ministerial declaration in Hong Kong is being trumpeted as a breakthrough because of (1) its supposed package for LDCs; and (2) its compromise deadline of 2013 for the scrapping of the developed countries' trade-distorting agricultural export subsidies. But in reality, developing countries and LDCs have not been given a substantial break in global trade. The WTO's development agenda remains in the realm of token concessions, general statements and highfalutin rhetoric.

For developing countries like the Philippines, the ministerial declaration is a prescription for even deeper tariff cuts in agriculture and the forcible opening up of our services sectors.

This will be disastrous especially for Philippine agriculture and industry because previous liberalization programs had already drastically cut tariffs and bound them to absurdly low rates, leaving us with almost nothing to negotiate on.

In the area of services, Annex C of the ministerial declaration cites 19 sectors to be considered for liberalization, namely legal services, computer and other related services, postal and courier services, telecommunications and audio visual services, construction and related engineering services, distribution services, education, energy, environmental services, financial services, health, tourism, maritime transport, air transport and other transport services, logistics, other professional and business services. As the Philippine economy's main sources of growth, we cannot risk having foreign corporations dominate and control these industries.

The Hong Kong declaration gives us until April 2006 before another ministerial meeting will be held, most likely to finalize the new commitments. But we can't be buying time forever. Ten years is enough to prove that the WTO serves the interests of monopoly corporations and banks in the industrialized countries—at the expense of the majority of the world's peoples and nations. The Hong Kong talks prove once more that the WTO's development agenda is a sham.

Thus, we are urging the Philippine government to reconsider its membership in the trade body. We believe that future WTO commitments outlined in the approved ministerial declaration will only hinder the country's development efforts.

—REP. TEODORO A. CASIÑO,
Bayan Muna Party List,
S-616, House of Representatives,
Batasan Complex, Diliman, Quezon City

We thank Rep. Teodoro Casiño for trying to "correct certain misinterpretations." However, the lead (first) paragraph was never attributed to Representative Casiño. It was the summary of a long story cut short due to space constraints.

—MICHAEL LIM UBAC,
PDI reporter

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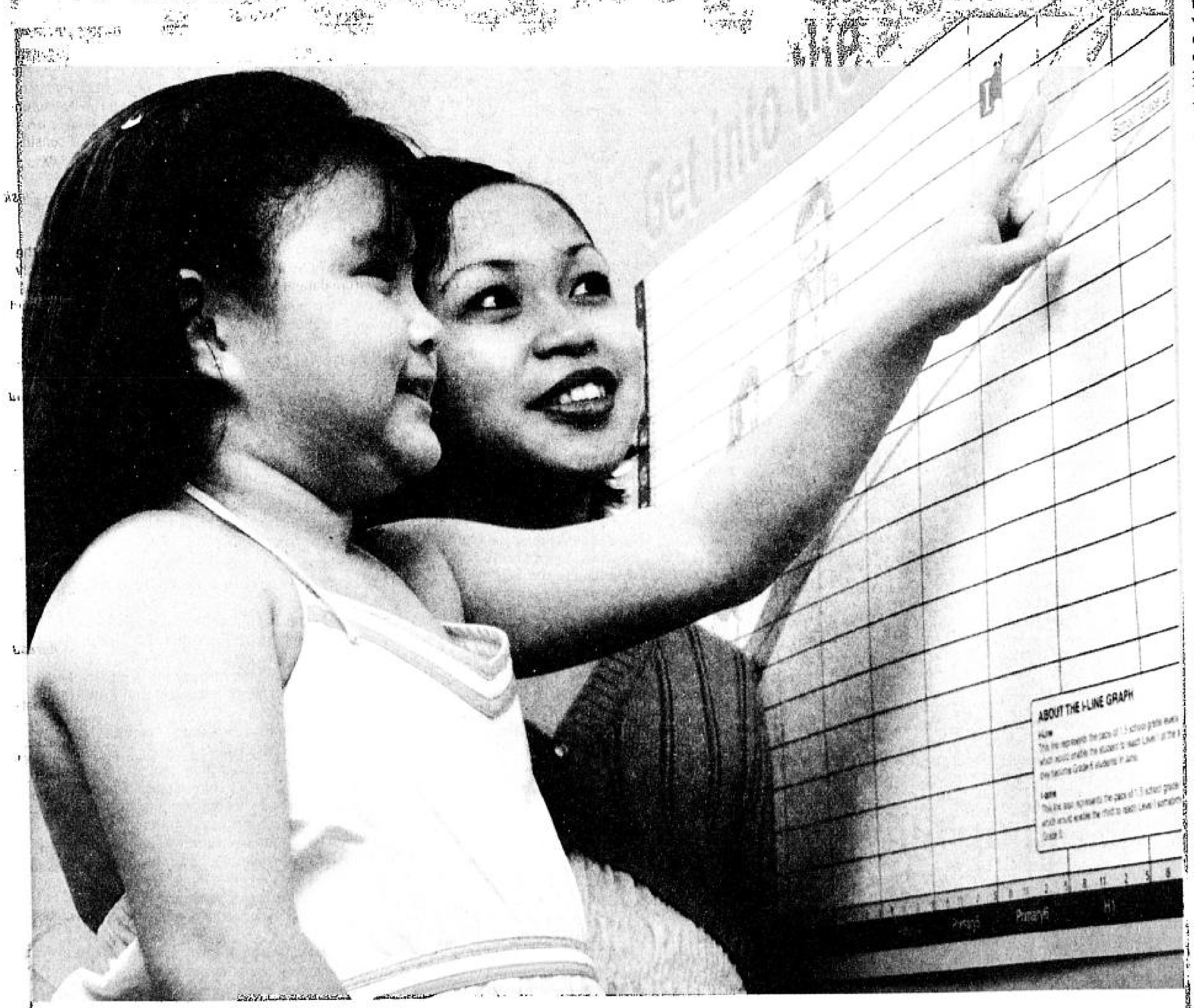
"Teacher, I want to multiply numbers by April!"



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House sets probe of Rapu-Rapu mining

BULAN, SORSOGON—THE House committee on environment would investigate the entire mining operations of the Lafayette Philippines Inc. to determine whether or not the Australian firm is following the standards set by the government for mining operations in the country as mandated by the Mining Act.

Rep. Jose Solis (2nd District, Sorsogon), vice chair of the House environment committee, said he had already filed a resolution seeking a House inquiry based on complaints filed by four mayors from his district whose towns suffered millions of pesos in fishing income loss as a result of the toxic spill from Lafayette's mining operations in Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay.

He said the investigation would be held notwithstanding the fines imposed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which found the company responsible for negligence.

The Pollution Adjudication Board earlier slapped a P10.7-million fine on Lafayette while the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee imposed a P300,000 fine for two cyanide spills last year.

Solis said the committee awaits the referral by the plenary once Congress resumes its session on Jan. 16.

He said the investigation should determine if there are new provisions in the Mining Act that must be introduced to ensure compliance by mining companies, he said.

Vigilance

"Although we welcome foreign investors here, we must also be vigilant for any violation that they commit which could endanger the life and livelihood of our people and our environment. Development could not take precedence over the interest of the greater majority," the lawmaker said.

Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee said the local government unit would proceed with its independent investigation of the chemical contamination in Sorsogon's waters despite the action taken by the DENR against the foreign company.

Lee said Gov. Raul Lee had already invited the National Science Research Institute to conduct a study on the sea waters of Sorsogon and Rapu-Rapu to determine mercury levels in them.

Reports of mercury contamination, earlier disclosed by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, triggered a fish scare in the towns of Prieto-Diaz, Gubat, Bulusan and Barcelona and Sorsogon City.

Lafayette executives flatly denied that their firm was the source of mercury, saying the company does not use mercury in its operations. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sorsogon bishop to seek CBCP help to stop Lafayette mining

SORSOGON CITY—Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes will seek help from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to press for the cancellation of the mining permit of the Australian Lafayette Mining Inc. and the closure of the Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc. that it operates in the municipality of Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

Bastes said he will bring the issue before the CBCP when it convenes next week in Manila for its regular conference that will start Jan. 23.

The bishop said he will seek the support of other bishops in asking the government to declare the entire Bicol region as a "mining-free area" similar to the CBCP's strong position against logging in the Samar region.

"Experts have told us that mining in the Bicol region will always cause disaster, both to the population and the environment, because of its mountainous location and the rainy weather condition as it is within the typhoon belt," he said.

Bastes said all the priests were unanimous in their position during a recent diocesan assembly to ask the government to cancel the permit or authority of Lafayette to do mining in Rapu-Rapu.

"But prior to bringing the issue to the CBCP meeting, the local Catholic Church here will conduct another consultation to gather more evidence on the ill-effects of the mining operation," the prelate told the INQUIRER.

The Church-run Social Action Center, he added, is now collating data, which will be submitted to the CBCP, so a strong case can be made against the mining firm.

"We will seek an audience with the President so we can make known our position, which is closure of the mining operations," he said.

Informed of the P10.7-million fine imposed by the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) on Lafayette, the bishop said money should not be the main consideration of the government but the welfare of the people and protection of the environment.

The mining operation on Rapu-Rapu island had been blamed for the toxic spill which caused fish scares and huge losses to the fishing industry in Sorsogon province.

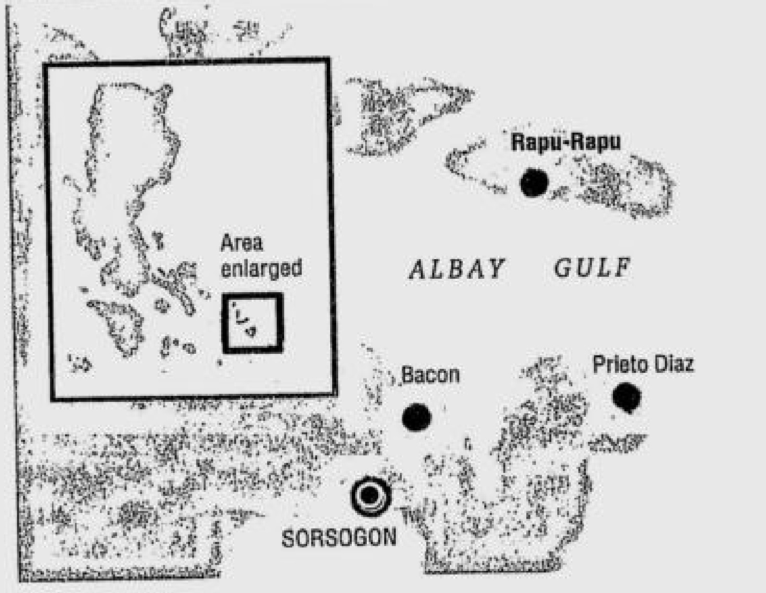
Rod Watt, Lafayette Philippine's country manager, would not issue any comment on Bishop Bastes' plan to bring the issue to the CBCP.

Watt, however, said the company is studying the PAB's decision to slap fines for the mine spills.

"We are at the moment studying the order and preparing a response to address the issues, which will then be discussed with the PAB. We are studying all options and are optimistic that we can settle the matter sooner rather than later," he said.

"We are currently working with government and non government organizations to fully alleviate concerns," he added. *Bobby Q. Labalan and Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ALBAY, SORSOGON AREAS AFFECTED BY MINING



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

PART OF THE CROWD
A member of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) is flanked by Muslims as they attend prayers in celebration of Eid'l Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) at the Blue Mosque in Taguig. The SAF was deployed to guard jailed Muslim leader Nur Misuari, former chief of the secessionist MNLF, who was given a six-hour furlough to be able to attend the celebration.

German, wife hunted for murder of tenant in Albay

TABACO CITY—A MANHUNT IS on against a German national and his Filipino wife for the alleged murder of their tenant, who tilled their newly bought rice field in Malinao, Albay.

Judge Virginia Almonte, presiding judge of the Tabaco Regional Trial Court Branch 17, earlier issued a warrant of arrest against Marcos Sampiles and wife Annielyn Sampiles, residents of Barangay, Pawa in this city, for murder.

Almonte recommended no bail.

The manhunt for Sampiles came following the surrender of Melchor Ramoran, a resident of Barangay San Lorenzo, also in this city, after several months of hiding.

They were tagged as conspirators in the murder of one Ernesto Bragais, 60, a resident of Pawa, Tabaco City, who was found dead in the middle of the rice field he was tilling sometime in August 2004. Bragais suffered seven stab and hack wounds.

Annaliza Bragais, the victim's granddaughter, alerted the police about seeing the suspects driving a Starex van downtown after Ramoran's surrender.

She said the couple started to go into hiding on Jan. 1.

Ramoran confessed he was solely responsible for the crime, but police believe the Sampiles couple masterminded it. *Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Another militant leader slain

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A leader of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija, was found dead on Wednesday, a day after he was abducted by armed men, a report from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said. The body of Armando Leabres was discovered in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, more than 50 km from where he was abducted, said Roman Polintan, Bayan Central Luzon chair. Polintan said the military was considered a suspect in the killing. He said in a meeting last week, Leabres expressed fear for his life after receiving a warning from a soldier.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Vizcaya posts first meningo case

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Health officials on Thursday confirmed the presence of the province's first suspected case of meningococcemia involving a 7-year-old boy from Barangay Bonfal Proper here. But Dr. Napoleon Obaña, chief of clinics of the state-run Veterans Regional Hospital here, said the boy had "positively responded to medication and was well on his way to recovery." "We considered it as a confirmed case, and we treated him the way we treat meningococcemia (even without the prior confirmation). It's a good thing he has responded very well," Obaña said.
Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Insurance tied to killing

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police are studying the possible link of a 100 million yen (P50 million) state insurance with the killing of Japanese national Yasuaki Sawada. Senior Supt. Alfredo Toroctocon, city police chief, told the INQUIRER that the victim's father Yukio Sawada executed a sworn statement attesting that their son was insured by the Japanese government. Toroctocon said the father claimed in his statement that Satoshi Ueda, a close friend of Sawada who accompanied him in his travel from Japan to the Philippines, was the beneficiary of the insurance. Sawada's parents, who came here on Dec. 24, told police Japanese authorities are also searching for their son after he mysteriously disappeared. The parents said they were surprised to learn their son was already here.
Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

1 kg of shabu seized

CEBU CITY—Anti-drug operatives yesterday seized a kilo of shabu, estimated to be worth between P2 million to P3 million, from a janitor of a passenger vessel that docked at a Cebu port. Cebu City Councilor Augustus Pe Jr., chair of the Cebu City committee on dangerous drugs, identified the suspect as Allan Abayan from Mambaling, Cebu City. Abayan was the janitor of MV Butuan Bay 1, owned by the Gothong Shipping Lines, which docked at the Gothong wharf in Mandaue City at around 7 a.m. yesterday from Ozamis City. Abayan yesterday claimed he was not aware that he was carrying shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride). He said a certain Roland from Ozamis City handed him the packed plastic bag and requested him to hand it to someone who would claim it upon the boat's arrival in Cebu.

Workers get P3M

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Labor and Employment in Eastern Visayas reported that nearly P3 million was paid to workers as settlement of the labor cases they filed against their employers last year. Crispin Dannug, labor assistant regional director, said P2,923,037 was received by 2,052 workers in the region who filed complaints at the DOLE office. Most of the complaints are on employers' failure to pay the minimum wage.
Joey A. Gableta, PDI Visayas Bureau

KAYA ALWAYS DO RIGHT BY YOUR EMPLOYEES ! OKEY ?

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

Gloria sets 4-day holiday in 3 Cebu cities for Asean meet

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—IT'S STILL ELEVEN months away but President Macapagal-Arroyo already declared there will be a four-day holiday in three Metro Cebu cities that will host the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in December.

The President Thursday announced that from Dec. 11 to 14, 2006, it would be a non-working holiday in the Asean summit host cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapulapu.

In her speech during the blessing and inauguration of Don Vicente Gullas Medical Center in Barangay Banilad, Mandaue City, the President said she was very proud that Cebu hosted around half of the 2.5 million foreign tourists who came to the Philippines last year.

"For all these many reasons, I found it so appropriate and the Asean leaders found it so appropriate that when we host the Asean summit this year, the Asean summit will be held in the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapulapu," the President said.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña earlier asked the President to declare a holiday in the host cities of the summit mainly for the security of the delegates.

Osmeña said declaring a holiday during the four-day summit would make security preparations easier because there would be fewer people in streets and public places.

Osmeña had planned putting in place martial law-type security measures, such as a curfew and declaring certain areas of the city off limits to mendicants, for security but he was dissuaded by allies concerned about human rights.

Declaring a non-working holiday in the host cities was more appropriate and was in keeping with the tradition of the other cities that had hosted both Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) and Asean summits, the President yesterday said.

The President asked students, teachers and the employees to go on vacation in different beaches for the duration of the four-day holiday.

MS ARROYO in her favorite city in the South, Cebu.

PCPO

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Sinulog Festival: Doing more with less

By Ahmed Cuizon
Contributor

DOING MORE WITH LESS. THIS SEEMS TO BE the prevailing theme in Cebu's "Sinulog" mardi gras this weekend.

Faced with hard times, organizers are finding it harder to invite more sponsors and dance contingents to the colorful festival that coincides with the annual feast of the Sto. Niño de Cebu.

The need for support was none more evident than when President Macapagal-Arroyo formally opened the Sinulog in Cebu City last week, the first time a President did in the festival's 26-year history.

"Prevailing economic conditions are really affecting the festival," Sinulog Foundation executive director Ricky Ballesteros said. "But that will not stop us from maximizing efforts to ensure that spectators will not be disappointed."

Production cost of this year's staging is estimated at P20 million. The city government has shouldered P8 million of the amount, but the remainder has to come from sponsors.

Private sponsorship funds, however, have been depleted after Cebu hosted the 19th Philippine Advertising Congress and the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in November last year. "Most companies that we approached said they had other priorities this time," Ballesteros said.

One of the regular sponsors, Smart Telecommunications, has drastically reduced its donation from last year's P5 million to only P2 million this year. Bound by an exclusivity contract, the Sinulog Foundation is unable to accept sponsorships from rival telecom firms.

Other funding sources, such as rentals from sidewalk stall owners in the usual street fair fronting the Abellana National School on Osmeña Boulevard have not been very promising either. Started in December, the two-month fair fetches P25,000 per stall.

Rekindling interest

Previously, the fair stretched out to as far as the Cebu Normal University and the old Social Security System complex on Osmeña Boulevard. This year, these places have been declared off-limits to stalls. Sales in the remaining area have also slumped.

"Our sales are weak because of the crisis. It's really different than before. We might not be able to come back and sell here again next year," said Ver Perez, 51, who sells trinkets and *batik* products from Davao City.

A supplier of leather belts and wallets from Cotabato City, Shirley Bobantan, 30, also complained of low sales. "Our sales are lower than in the past four years. Many of us might even find it hard to pay rent."

Another income source, grandstand tickets to the Cebu City Sports Complex, where the street dancing will culminate, are not enough to ease the shortfall.

And as if news of the festival's low funds wasn't bad enough, the crunch has dampened the participation of several award-winning out-of-town dance contingents considered perennial crowd favorites.

So far, only 40 contingents have signed up for both the Sinulog-based and free interpretation dance categories, down from last year's 50. The figure is even much lower in the float competition, which has so far attracted only 18 entries compared to 32 from last year.

Explaining the drop, Ballesteros stressed that "last year's mardi gras was definitely bigger since it was the festival's 25th anniversary." Still, he gave assurance that organizers were pulling out all stops so that the Sinulog will not fail the expectations of some 3 million spectators.

As hotels and resorts are gradually being filled by tourists and *balikbayans*, the Sinulog Foundation has moved the deadline for accepting entries to the different contest categories from last week to yesterday.

Along with the introduction of other features and incentives, the effort has rekindled new interest in this year's event. Already, new contingents from Passi City in Iloilo, Masbate City, Bislig City in Surigao del Sur, and Eastern Samar have signed up for the mardi gras for the first time.

DANCERS belonging to the Pintados from San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, join the Sinulog 2004 in Cebu City. PDI PHOTO

The new entrants will make up for the absence of traditional participating groups from other areas in Surigao del Norte, San Carlos City and Bayawan town in Negros Oriental that begged off from joining this year's festivities due to economic reasons.

Depending on its concept, a contingent needs a budget of P500,000 to P1 million, with transportation for dancers to and from Cebu as the usual biggest expense item.

To help defray costs, festival organizers give cash assistance of P100,000 to "outsiders" who participated in the mardi gras in the past three years. To save on accommodation costs, they are housed in public schools and provided shuttle services within the city.

MEMBERS of the Tribu Kuta from Camiguin perform a dance offering to the Sto. Niño. PDI PHOTO

MEMBERS of Pintaflores from San Carlos dance under the Free Interpretation Category during the 2004 Sinulog Festival. PDI PHOTO

Austerity measures

From the old to the new, austerity measures and modified rules help retain Sinulog's appeal amid hard times.

"To trim expenses, we encourage groups to adopt measures like practicing only after lunch in order to save on meals," said Dolores Suzara, the Sinulog Foundation's project director.

"Other groups also recycle two- or three-year-old costumes by changing, refurbishing or adding accessories to make them look new. With ingenuity and creativity, they can still look their best in their old costumes," she said.

Huge props and mobile backdrops that only add more expenses are strongly discouraged, Suzara said. "The Sinulog, after all, is about venerating the Holy Child through dance and not through extravagant props or backdrops."

To drive home the point, Suzara said judging the street dancing competitions would include a 20-point deduction to the scores of contingents with huge props.

Another incentive to draw more participants is wider media exposure that will benefit provinces like Camiguin, which regularly joins the Sinulog as part of its tourism promotion efforts.

International and national television networks will cover the festival from its opening at 9 a.m. up to the fireworks displays at 7 p.m. Negotiations for live TV airings in Australia and the Middle East, and a three-hour delayed telecast in the United States are ongoing.

Organizers have also retained the P7.2-million budget for prizes in all competition categories, including the Sinulog Festival Queen and the new "See Cebu on a Carousel Route" on-site décor.

Worthwhile

To make winning more worthwhile for contingents, trophies featuring a gold-plated Sto. Niño and a 14-karat city logo will be given.

City officials see no major diminution in this year's festivities. Despite the hard times, organizers are confident of mounting a grand Sinulog, complete with street parties, concerts, pageants and cultural events.

As Vice Mayor Michael Rama, Sinulog Foundation chair, predicts, "more sponsors and participants will eventually turn out because the real reason people join in the Sinulog is to thank the Sto. Niño for the blessings they have received."

DEVOTEES carry their children to kiss the image of the Sto. Niño before it was transferred to St. Joseph Parish Church in Mandaue City. PDI PHOTO

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

CHILD'S PLAY
A boy steps nimbly on drainage pipes laid out for installation at a housing complex in Marikina City. RAFFY LERMA

Manila court issues hold order vs Jaylo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE BELEAGUERED CHIEF OF THE DISbanded Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (PAIRTF) will have to stay in the country to face charges against him.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 28 Judge Nina Antonio-Valenzuela issued a hold departure order against former PAIRTF chief Reynaldo Jaylo on Thursday to prevent him from leaving the country.

A warrant of arrest had been issued two weeks ago against Jaylo, who is facing six counts of serious illegal detention cases.

Copies of the hold order were sent to the Bureau of Immigration (BI) and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The petition for a hold departure order was filed by Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco on the request of National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Special Task Force chief Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda.

The NBI official made the request for the filing of an "Urgent Ex-Parte Motion" in Judge Valenzuela's court for the hold departure order.

Valenzuela issued a warrant of arrest for Jaylo on Dec. 29. The court did not grant bail for the accused "because he was charged with several counts of a capital offense."

"Jaylo is already on the BI watchlist," Esmeralda said in an earlier interview.

He said the bureau had instructed its office at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to arrest the former PAIRTF chief if he is spotted in the area.

Esmeralda also said he had sent out two teams to scour the metropolis to check on Jaylo's whereabouts.

"We believe he is still in Metro Manila," the NBI official said.

Assurance

Esmeralda stressed that if Jaylo surrendered to him, he would make sure that the former PAIRTF chief remained in his custody and would not be brought to the Manila City Jail.

The NBI earlier filed arbitrary detention and usurpation of authority charges against Jaylo in the Department of Justice.

The bureau also filed charges of qualified bribery and illegal possession of firearms against Jaylo's men who were arrested in entrapment operations conducted by agents of the NBI's Special Task Force and Intelligence Special Operations Division in October last year.

Agents of the NBI Special Action Unit raided the PAIRTF's Manila office in November and arrested more "illegal" operatives.

Friday the 13th brings woes to family

By DJ Yap

FRIDAY THE 13th PROVED TO BE AN unlucky day for a family in Quezon City when a 17-year-old boy stabbed his own mother dead and wounded his stepfather.

The boy, who works at a "*peryahan*" (fair grounds) on V. Luna Road, admitted he was drunk when he killed his 46-year-old mother and injured her live-in partner inside their house in Barangay Pinyahan

The police said the suspect was drinking with friends the night before the incident to celebrate his birthday when his stepsister teased him that his birthday should be the next day, Friday the 13th, believed to be an unlucky day.

A heated argument ensued and the suspect's stepsister reported the tiff to their father, who then scolded the boy, according to investigator PO3 Mario Turiano.

At 3 a.m., the boy allegedly got a 16-inch knife and stabbed his stepfather in the face and back, police said.

He also stabbed his mother, a fish vendor, when she tried to intervene.

The mother was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center, where she died later. The stepfather was treated at the Capitol Medical Center.

Turiano said the suspect would be charged with parricide and frustrated murder.

Manila pays tribute to Sto. Niño

IN PREPARATION FOR THE STO. NINO FIesta celebration in Tondo and Pandacan today, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has mobilized barangay officials and watchmen to help members of the Manila Police District maintain peace and order in these areas.

Atienza also advised motorists to avoid roads and streets affected by the Lakbayaw Festival and Fluvial Parade in Tondo and the Buling-Buling celebration in Pandacan.

"These celebrations are two of the most colorful events in the city in honor of the Sto. Nino," Atienza said in a statement.

The Lakbayaw Festival in Tondo will start at 7 a.m. with Atienza leading the parade and participants from school, community and religious organizations.

Ati-atihan groups will compete for the best dance presentation award, the mayor explained.

The parade will start in Plaza Hernandez-Lakandula Street and end at Plaza Hernandez. A fluvial parade and procession will follow at 2 p.m. from the Tondo Church going to the Escolta Wharf.

From the wharf, a motorcade will pass through Quintin Paredes and return to the Tondo Church.

In Pandacan, the Buling-Buling Street Festival will begin at 3 p.m. with residents singing and dancing to the accompaniment of string instruments while the Sto. Niño image is moved around the area.

Historian Ricardo Mendoza said the festival started in 1712 to honor the miraculous Sto. Nino whose image was found in the middle of a pandan plantation, now called Pandacan.

Margaux C. Ortiz

METROBRIEFS

Bad hair day

A JEEPNEY driver who apparently needs anger management lessons is facing criminal charges in Quezon City after he allegedly cursed a Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) aide who had warned him of a traffic violation. Not content with shouting invectives, Carlos Soriano also allegedly hit MMDA officer Jhon Murao's left cheek according to a complaint filed by the alleged victim in the Quezon City prosecutor's office. Murao lodged slander and oral defamation charges against Soriano for "showing utter contempt for him not only once but thrice." It was later learned that Soriano was not able to produce a driver's license upon questioning.

DJ Yap

World Heritage lecture

THE MUSEUM Foundation of the Philippines Inc. ushers in the New Year with a talk on World Heritage Sites in the Philippines by Augusto Villalon at 10 a.m. tomorrow, at the Tambunting-Villongco Hall, Museum of the Filipino People, Valencia Circle, Manila. For details, call Elvie Magpayo or Dindin Araneta at 4042685 or e-mail info@museumfoundationphils.com.

The siblings Vicky and Tom Toh

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I WILL SURELY INCUR THE IRE OF FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo to whom I'm quite close, but I would be remiss in my duty as a journalist if I didn't write this.

As a friend, I've told Mr. Arroyo about the activities of Vicky Toh and her brother, Tom Toh, at the Bureau of Customs. But he kept saying the reports about the Tohs were fabricated.

My sources at the customs bureau told me the Tohs were protecting a smuggler, a guy named Sammy Lee. No customs official dares to touch Lee because he's allegedly under the protective wings of the Tohs.

Even former Commissioner Bert Lina, known for being a straight, no-nonsense guy, couldn't touch Lee. Whenever Lee's cargo would be up for inspection, Vicky and Tom would reportedly call Lina and intercede for Lee. Every week, 300 container vans are taken out of Lee's bonded warehouses without inspection. The vans contain taxable or banned items like resin, tiles, furniture and *ukay-ukay* (used clothing). How much does Lee pay the customs bureau for each container van he takes out of the customs? An import processing fee of P240!

My sources said Lee should be paying P120,000 in taxes and duties for a 20-foot container van, and P240,000 for a 40 footer.

In short, Lee defrauds the government of P36 million weekly. The amount is conservative. The computation is based on the number of container vans, or 300, multiplied by P120,000 representing taxes and duties for each 20-foot container van. Customs insiders said the warehouses of Lee and the Tohs are the few remaining still operating. The rest have shut down because of the high cost of taxes and duties on imported goods.

As a friend, I urge Mike Arroyo to tell Vicky and Tom Toh to stop their smuggling activities.

* * *

IF JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez had his way, he would have the four US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman held in custody.

"But, Mon, we can't do that without violating a provision in the Visiting Forces Agreement," Gonzalez told me. He cited Article 5, Section 6 of the VFA that provides that the US government will have custody of American servicemen charged with a crime for the duration of the trial. Don't blame Gonzalez for being legalistic. After all, he's the government's chief lawyer.

Let's protect the integrity of the republic, but we should also respect the VFA, which is a treaty we signed with the US.

* * *

THE ILOCOS Sur National High School Class of 1956 will celebrate its 50th anniversary in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, on Jan. 20 and 21. One of the members of that class is Tomas del Castillo, INQUIRER's legal counsel. For details, call Marietta Peralta Librea at 9116435.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS to Lucio Alejo, Royce Reyes, Abraham Chavez and Marielle Macapawa who were recently promoted to 5th Dan in the Japanese martial art of aikido. They are the highest-ranking aikido practitioners in the country today.

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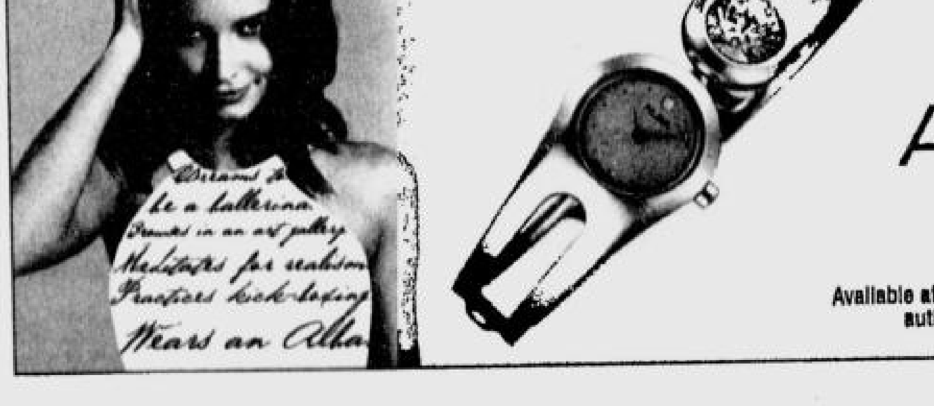

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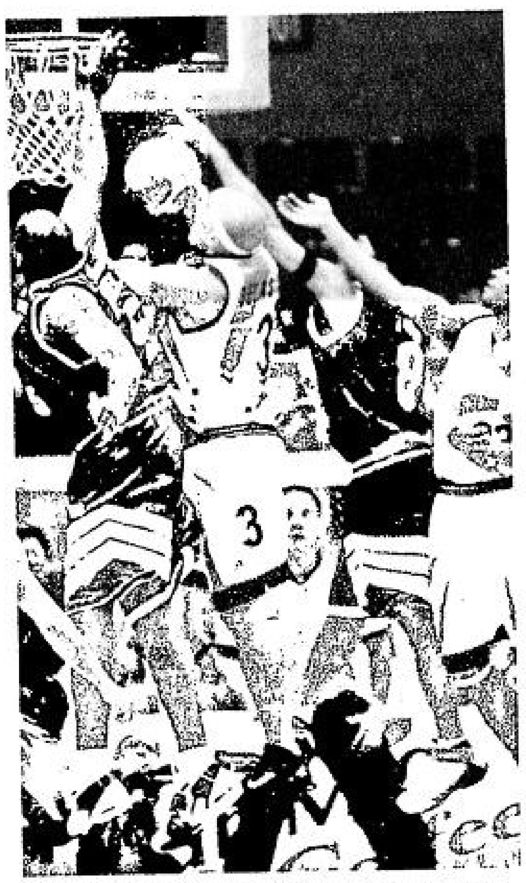
Air21 dethrones tired, tired SMB

By June Navarro

HAVING LOST TWO SUDDEN-DEATH GAMES in franchise history, the Air21 Express made sure a third one did not slip away.



SAN MIGUEL Beer's Nic Belasco battles for the rebound off two Air21 players. RYAN LIM

Renren Ritualo's four-point play in the closing minutes sparked Air21 to a 100-86 win over San Miguel Beer last night, paving the way for the Express to advance to the quarterfinals of the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ritualo got a feed from Wynne Arboleda at the top of the arc and sent home a triple that finally loosened up a tight contest and snuffed the life out of the Beermen.

The Air21 sniper completed a four-point swing after getting a foul from Dondon Hontiveros, giving the Express an 88-80 balloon on the way to their first quarterfinal stint since the wild card phase was introduced in 2003.

The Express, who had already lost a couple of do-or-die wild card matches since joining the league in 2002, begin their best-of-five series with the well-rested Talk 'N Text Phone Pals today.

"There was a point in the game when I almost gave up," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol. "But my wife told me that the team gets its strength from me and that motivated me to give it a fight."

In contrast, the Beermen lost their first sudden-death game—after hurdling the last two— in just a matter of six days. The defending champion Beermen wound up eighth in the conference.

Redeeming himself from an atrocious free-throw shooting in Game 2, Shawn Daniels had 16 points in the first half, but San Miguel shot pretty well from the field to overcome Daniels' hot start.

Danny Seigle typified the Beermen's torrid outside shooting, making 15 points just before the intermission, including a pair of floaters in the lane that gave San Miguel a 53-47 halftime lead.

Free-throw woes again hounded the Express in the first half, muffing seven of 14 attempts, which the Beermen exploited by turning the game around with an 11-2 run from 37-all.

Seigle sparked that assault with a three-point play, while Danny Ildefonso and Kwan Johnson combined for eight points in the next possessions to help the Beermen build a 48-39 spread.

Back-to-back three-pointers by Niño Canaleta and Wynne Arboleda's lay-up brought the Express back to the driver's seat, 59-58, an advantage Air21 sustained at the close of the third.

The scores:

AIR 21 100—Daniels 24, Arboleda 18, Canaleta 15, Ritualo 13, David 12, Y. De Ocampo 9, Gonzales 3, R. De Ocampo 2, Tubid 2, Dacla 1, Ferriols 1, Se 0, Fran 0.

SAN MIGUEL 86—Johnson 24, Seigle 17, Calaguio 14, Ildefonso 14, Belasco 9, Pena 6, Hontiveros 2, Lopez 0, Racela 0.

Quarters: 27-29, 47-53, 67-64, 100-86

De Villa hangs on to win RP Ladies

A18

PSA honors top athletes tonight

FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO MADE 2005 truly memorable for the country will be feted by the Philippine Sportswriters Association tonight in gala ceremonies at the grand ballroom of the Manila Pavil-

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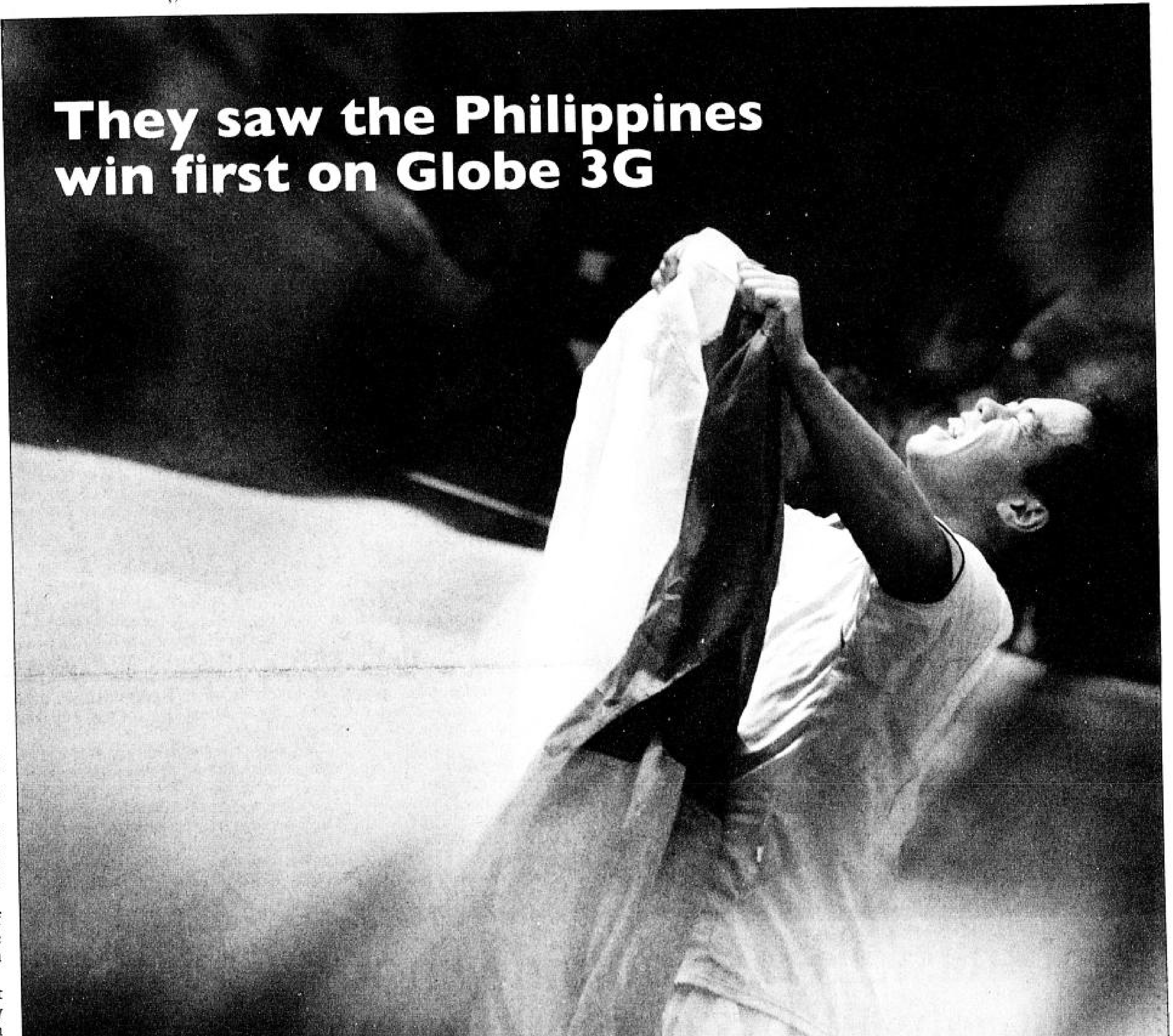

They saw the Philippines win first on Globe 3G

Photograph by: Rocky De Castro

While the world was watching Team Philippines sweep the 23rd South East Asian Games on TV, media writers and sports reporters saw it on Globe 3G, the third generation of mobile services.

In a showcase of their leadership in innovation, Globe displayed their 3G mobile voice and data services during the games. Demonstrations to the media ranged from audio and video streaming to video telephony, including video call interviews with members of Team Philippines.

From the time they were awarded a trial license to operate 3G trial services last year, Globe had been actively demonstrating the capabilities of this next generation technology in mobile services.

The first live public presentation was during the 2nd CEO Golf Classic Tournament at Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club. Over 100 CEOs and executives tried their hand at connecting to the tournament website at DSL speeds and viewing full-length videos of the golf games on 3G-capable phones. Then at the 19th Ad Congress in Cebu, Ayala Corp. President and CEO, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala made a video call to the chairman of the congress and also received a live video call from Manila.

Just in time for Christmas, Della Bautista, an OFW working in Singapore, was reunited with the family she has not seen in 8 years. In a video call during the 3G Express Exhibit at Glorietta, she was able to talk to and see not just her sister, Lourdes, and brother, Danny, but also her 4-year old niece Daisy for the first time.

3G

Globe has always been committed to enriching lives, moreso now with the power of 3G and the whole range of mobile services that come with it: *video calls* that allow people to see and hear each other; *video sharing* in which two subscribers can view the same video in real time; *fast browsing* and even *faster downloads* for internet surfing and downloading at DSL speeds; and *video streaming* to catch the latest news or TV shows live.

That same commitment applies in the way they innovate. During the same 23rd SEA Games that saw members of the media experience 3G, Globe also demonstrated first-hand High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA), the upcoming technology being developed with even faster download speeds.

From being first in the country to introduce GSM (2G), Globe continued to pioneer with its successive introductions of GPRS (2.5G) and EDGE (2.75G) soon after. Now, Globe leads again with 3G and continues in its vision of making great things possible.

See 3G in action every weekend of January at the Ground floor of Glorietta 3, Ayala Center Makati.

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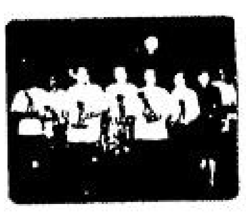
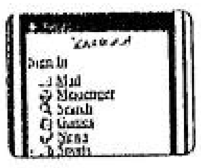




Pacquiao impresses LA boxing scribes

FILIPINO BOXING HERO MANNY PACQUIAO has finally made public what he says is the terrible punishment that awaits his Mexican nemesis Erik Morales on Jan. 22, when they cross paths once again at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The fast and furious lefty from Gen. Santos City yesterday allowed reporters to see how he trains at the Wild Card Gym of Freddie Roach in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao did what was described in the boxing website 15rounds.com as an electrifying 70-minute media workout that had fellow fighters and media watching in awe.

"He didn't see the best of me last time, but rest assured he'll see the best of me this time," the website quoted Pacman as telling sportswriters.

"I don't know how I'm going to beat him, but I will win."

While working out, the tune of Pacquiao's latest project "Para Sa Yo ang Labang Ito" blared in the background.

Trainer Roach revealed that he wants Pacquiao to be not so "left-hand happy," a tactical pitfall that also marked the Filipino's first fight with Morales.

"We've got a lot of different weapons he is prepared to use," Roach told 15rounds.com.

Asked about his prediction, Roach said, "I wouldn't be surprised if Manny knocked him out. I'm not predicting it, but I wouldn't be surprised."

"I want Manny to do a better job staying off the ropes," Roach added. "It's something we've been working on. You will see a much better fight this time around."

Observers who in the past were dazzled by Pacquiao's hand speed and power were given another treat this time, one prepared only for Morales: a highly-improved footwork aimed at confusing the Mexican star. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

WHILE members of the foreign media watch, Manny Pacquiao (right) works out with trainer Freddie Roach Thursday in Los Angeles. AP

Little Debbie hangs on for 1-shot victory

JUN RAPANAN

BIG EFFORT: Amazing Debbie De Villa lifts her trophy.

By Musong R. Castillo

PLAYING WITH THE HEART OF A VETERAN and brandishing the game of a champion, little Debbie De Villa fended off all pursuers with a brilliant 2-under-par 69 yesterday to win the 44th Philippine Ladies Amateur by one shot over Korean Lee Seo-jae.

Starting the final round just one ahead, the 5-foot, 95-lb De Villa built a four-stroke lead after five holes and showed poise well beyond her years when the chasers gained to hold on to the biggest win of her young career.

"It's a dream come true," said the 15-year-old, who had the luxury of closing out with a bogey for a 54-hole, even-par 213 total. "I came into this tournament hoping for nothing but a top 10 finish. I guess everything fell in place. I'm blessed."

Debbie goes down in history as one of the youngest ever to win this event, which drew 86 entries, including 33 foreigners.

LPGA star Jennifer Rosales, according to the organizing Women's Golf Association of the Philippines, was also around that same age when she won the first of her five Opens in the mid-1990s.

Carmelette Villaroman, who fired a 78 to finish 15th at 232, was also within the age range when she won in 1993.

Lee actually matched De Villa's 69, but she missed a potential playoff-forging 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th. That sparked a wild celebration in the gallery that braved the heat and the strong mid-afternoon downpour at the exclusive Manila Golf Club.

Hong Kong's Demi Mak struggled to a 73 and settled for third with 219, while Frances Bondad limped home with a 74 to be at 220, seven shots off De Villa and one rung lower than her finish last year.

Fil-Am Cristina Corpus submitted a 72 and wound up fifth at 221, three in front of Lora Roberto.

Woo Young-kyung, runner-up to Jayvie Agojo last year, matched par 71 to claim a tie for seventh spot at 226 with Reb Sotelo-Bareng (76) and 2000 winner Thuhashina Selvaratnam of Sri Lanka (78).

Jungolfer Dottie Ardina signed for a 75 for 227, with chubby Mia Piccio checking in next at 228 after a 74. Crystal Faith Superal assembled a 76 for 230 and solo 12th place.

Christabel Goh of Singapore shot a 78 earlier to win the Class A plum over Valley's Bambee dela Paz (79) by two shots with a 242 total. Eva Miñoza, sister of the revered Frankie, had an 81 (245) for third.

Angela De Villa, younger sister of Debbie, assembled an 85 for 256 and a one-shot victory over Sunshine Baraquiel (88) in Class B. Claudine Garcia (90) finished third at 268.

De Villa strung up three birdies from No. 2 and went 4-up on the Korean when Lee missed the green on the par-4 fifth.

The young Filipina made the turn at 33 and was still 3-up with nine holes to play when Lee assembled a three-birdie string of her own from the 10th.

De Villa made a clutch 12-footer for birdie on the 12th to stay afloat before gunning down another bird on the par-3 14th. Both players bogeyed the difficult 16th, and after bogeys on the 17th, Lee's only chance was to land her third shot near the 18th pin to force a playoff as De Villa had to play out of the trees after hooking her second shot.

Teethmasters take outside shot at outright PBL semifinal berth

AS TIGHT AS THE ROAD TO A PBL HEROES Cup outright semifinal slot may seem, Hapee-PCU coach Junel Baculi feels he has something good going in the trio of Gabby Espinas, Jason Castro and Robert Sanz.

"Our PCU players, I know they want to prove something," said Baculi of his three NCAA standouts. "We just have to keep on working to have a chance [for] the second spot."

The third-running Teethmasters will try to boost their bid when they battle the Toyota Otis Knights at 4 p.m. today at the San Andres Gym.

The Teethmasters must not only beat the Knights, they also need either Magnolia or Rain or Shine to lose their respective games tomorrow.

Even then, Hapee-PCU still has to go through a knockout match against whichever team loses for that early ticket to the semifinals.

In contrast, Magnolia and Rain or Shine can claim the first two semifinal seats if Hapee-PCU loses or by hurdling their assignments tomorrow.

The Granny Goose Tortillos, assured of a slot in the quarterfinals, are also in a must-win situation when they tackle the Far Eastern Insurers at 2 p.m.—but for different reasons.

Toting similar 5-5 cards, Granny Goose, Montaña and Harbour Centre remain in the hunt for the twice-to-beat incentive in the quarterfinals.

The third and fourth placers at the end of the elimination round, which wraps up tomorrow, would clinch the quarterfinal bonus, thus making a victory by the Tortillos very crucial.

Far Eastern Insurance and Toyota Otis bowed out of contention as early as last week.

The surging Teethmasters scored back-to-back upset wins over Magnolia, 81-70, and Montaña, 75-65, with Castro, Sanz and Espinas sizzling offensively. *Jasmine W. Payo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	7	3
R. or Shine	7	3
Hapee-PCU	6	4
Harbour	5	5
Montaña	5	5
G. Goose	5	5
Far E. Ins.	3	7
Toyota Otis	2	8

GAMES TODAY
(San Andres Gym)
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Far Eastern Insurance
4 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Hapee-PCU

CANTADA

TANPINCO

Cantada seeks rare 3rd win with Tanpinco

WITH HIS DOCTOR GIVING HIM THE GREEN light to play again, former world junior golf champion Gerard Cantada said yesterday he was ready to defend his crown in the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am at Riviera.

Cantada and his amateur partner JR Tanpinco scored a rare repeat victory last year in the fabled event backed up again this year by U-Bix Corp. top honcho Bert Bravo, the man behind the revival of the tournament in 2001.

"I'm excited," said Cantada. "My doctor (Jose Paolo Lorenzo) is himself now upbeat about my comeback and he's given me a clean bill of health to pursue the love of my life, which is golf."

Cantada had suffered from joint and muscle discomfort due to weight problems the last few months. But he is now "fit as a fiddle" to shoot, with Tanpinco, for a first-ever three successive victories in the event sponsored mainly by Grappa's, Pivo Praha and S-yard.

Bravo co-chairs the executive committee with Benny Gopez, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, with Riviera president Commodore Danny Pizarro (ret.) as chair of the organizing committee.

"Our commitment has been always to sustain the Pro-Am as our humble contribution to encourage both our pros and amateurs to excel in their game," said Bravo.

This year's edition, set Feb. 7-11 at Riviera's Langer course, has a total pot of P1.7 million, P200,000 up on last year's total purse.

Badminton coach pins hopes on Babad brods

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BETTER TO LOSE WITH NEW faces than to constantly allow the old hands get beaten up.

With that philosophy in mind, newly-appointed badminton head coach Errol Chan said yesterday he plans to draw the sport's roadmap around five kids—two of whom he hopes to send abroad for training.

Chan yesterday named brothers Joseph and Andre Babad as key prospects who he hopes to send to Indonesia, the sport's superpower, for intensive training.

Chan is also trying to convince the parents of three other young Davao City-based players—Katherine Kim P. Mayono, 13; Diosan A. Abangan, 17; and Jullie Pearl Gimena, 15—to allow the Palarong Pambansa champions to join a stable he is putting up to train under world-class shuttlers.

"It's better to see our young Filipino players [going] out there even if they lose, rather than seeing the same old faces getting beaten," said Chan, alluding to the national team which failed to come up with a single match win in the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

A lot of hope is pinned on the Babads. At the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall, the training center for the country's national shuttlers, they are known as "court rats" who regularly play against national players and walk-in players all day long.

"It's a big break for us," said 14-year-old Babad. He and his 16-year-old brother were discovered in Butuan City.

Ozamiz razes 18-pt deficit, pips Spring Oil

VALENCIA CITY—REIGNING NBC CHAMPION Ozamiz Cotta bucked a slow start to nip Spring Cooking Oil, 79-78, Thursday in the Mayor Sammy Co Invitational basketball tournament here.

Veteran Billy Bansil scored Ozamiz's last six points, including the game-winning free throws with two seconds left, as the Cotta tied idle Tribu Sugbu for top spot in Bracket A at 1-0.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla led by 18 points in the third quarter, but they wilted under pressure and allowed Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers to escape with the win.

Playmaker Bob Cozy Ilanga knocked in 10 of his 11 points during Ozamiz's rally which enabled it to grab the lead for the first time at 58-57.

Ex-pro Bong Marata and Ping Daja shone to lead expansion team Pagadian past the Valencia Golden Harvest, 75-74, in the other game.

Please beat the buzzer and call Dennis

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I WAS SURPRISED to receive a letter yesterday morning from INQUIRER Libre sports editor Dennis Eroa who recently had a close brush with death while motoring from Pasay to Olongapo. Dennis is appealing to readers for assistance, not for himself but for one of the unfortunate victims of the horrifying incident, a mother of three who's still confined in hospital.

Hereunder is Dennis' letter:

LESS than a month ago, I received the perfect gift. That was the gift of life.

But, I'm not going to dwell on the nightmarish bus ride I took from Pasay to Olongapo anymore. I've already recovered from the shock of flirting with death after a group of gunmen turned the Victory bus into a battleground.

Knowing that your column is well-read, I decided to write you this letter.

I believe, after all, that goodness happens not only during the Christmas season.

This letter is about a victim, or shall I say victims, of the unfortunate incident and a call to the authorities and the Victory management to do their best to safeguard the welfare of the public.

I stared at death and watched my seatmate bleed due to gunshot wounds, but what really tugged at my heart was the horrible scene which unfolded infront of me.

A mother of three slumped into her seat after getting hit. She fought for her life next to her three shocked daughters.

To make the story short, the wounded (I think there were six of them, including a Briton who lost a huge sum of money to a heartless, fellow passenger who disappeared while also being treated at the Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City) survived the incident, but it left permanent scars on their psyche.

This is the reason why I decided to write you, fervently hoping that Good Samaritans will be able to help the mother and her three young girls.

I learned from a nurse, who happens to be a neighbor of the victim, that the family is hard up. If I heard the nurse right, the woman is a widow and has difficulty making both ends meet.

I am taking this step to try to respond to a call for help.

To those, who want to beat the buzzer, I can be reached at 0917-278-3829, or you may call (02) 897-88-08 local INQUIRER Libre (Sunday to Thursday) from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Keep In Huddle, LOUD!

* * *

While high-ranking officials from Shell and Welcoat continue to deny that there are ongoing negotiations for the purchase of the former's PBA franchise, PBL insiders seem to be privy to the continuing exchanges between the two parties.

We are updated of these on a regular basis. I just can't be too sure how accurate the reports are.

During the holidays, for example, I was told that the two ballclubs were haggling on the franchise cost. Unfortunately, no figure could be quoted.

And then just the other day, word was out that the pact had been sealed. The PBA commissioner's office, they said, has already issued the guidelines, as well as the terms and conditions for the entry of the new ballclub.

Our source couldn't tell exactly where Welcoat would get the bulk of its lineup, considering the fact that it will be allowed to elevate only two of its amateur players to the pro club. This is really strange because in the past, new ballclubs from the PBL and the MBA were allowed to bring in at least five of their players from their amateur lineup.

I suppose there will be an expansion draft, and the new team can always look forward to picking players from the rookie pool—assuming that it will make its entry after the 2005-2006 season.

But when, in heaven's name, do they intend to make an official announcement?

* * *

HOOPVINE: With Joey Lina's BAP and Moying Martelino's PBFI holding almost simultaneous intercollegiate tournaments in the first quarter of this year, schools from all over the country will be torn between the two. Joey is confident, though, that the original participants will stay loyal to the BAP, which has conducted this nationwide tournament—one of the oldest—for decades… Incidentally, the BAP plans to stage an Asean Invitationals where all the countries that were supposed to participate in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games would be invited… PBA fans are wondering if this married actress comes to watch the games to root for her old boyfriend who wears a red jersey. This cager is not to be mistaken for another ex-boyfriend who also wears a red jersey and is still single, just like the other one.

Tour qualifier starts Feb. 12

THE CHASE FOR SLOTS TO the 2006 Tour rolls off Feb. 12 when the Philippine National Cycling Association (PNCA) holds its qualifying races in Tagaytay City.

PNCA president Paquito Rivas has forged an agreement with Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino to make the city's annual Pista ng Pag-ibig cycling festival a two-in-one event.

The qualifiers will have a massed start race—the Pista ng Pag-ibig proper—on Feb. 12 and the individual time trial on Feb. 13.

The Pista ng Pag-ibig, meanwhile, has expanded to other cycling disciplines and will hold competitions in mountain bike and BMX.

Tagaytay has become the country's cycling capital after hosting the road races of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games as well as the demonstration discipline of BMX, an official event in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The city boasts Southeast Asia's only BMX course that conforms to UCI standards.

Registration for the Tour qualifiers and the racing festival is at the PNCA offices at the Amoranto Sports Complex in Quezon City or through 0916-2601992.

The 2006 Tour is set April 20 to 30 and will be a 10-stage race over Luzon. The PNCA has also sought the sanction of the national federation for the sport—PhilCycling—for the 2006 Tour.

PUP begins defense of basketball crown

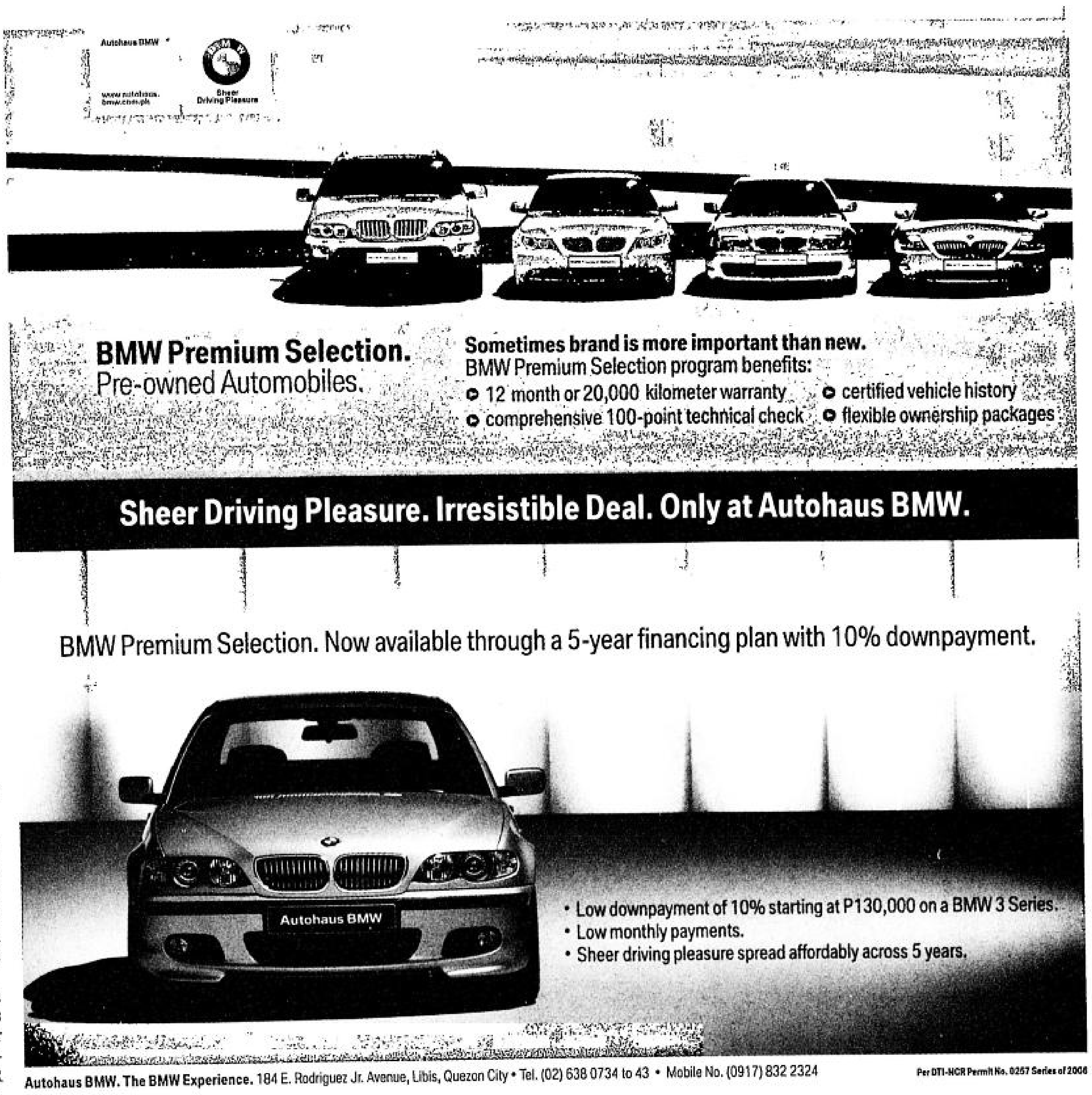
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines opens its title-retention campaign today as the 18th State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association-National Capital Region (Scuaa-NCR) Season men's basketball tournament kicks off at the PUP Gym in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

The Marooners faces the Philippine State College of Aeronautics in the 2 p.m. opener, to be followed by the Rizal Technological University-Philippine Normal University tussle at 3:30 p.m.

Season host Technological University of the Philippines battles Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology at 5 p.m.

The league held its opening ceremonies yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. Other events calendared are athletics, badminton, baseball, billiards, chess, futsal, football, handball, lawn tennis, sepak takraw, softball, swimming, table tennis and volleyball.

Present during the rites, which drew around 25,000 students and athletes, were guest speaker Rep. Bienvenido Abante of Manila's sixth district and Scuaa-NCR chair and TUP president Dr. Godofredo Gallega.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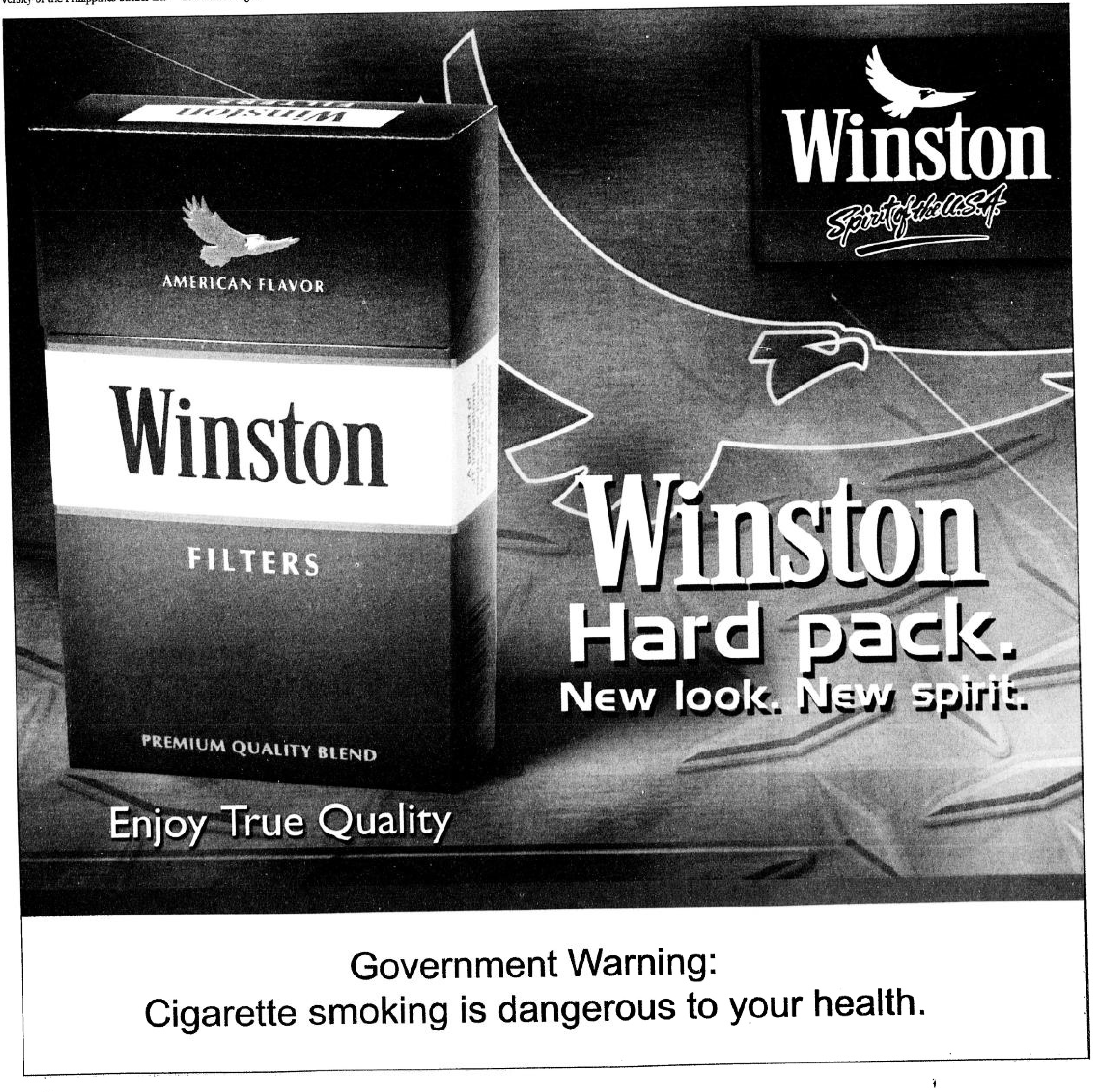
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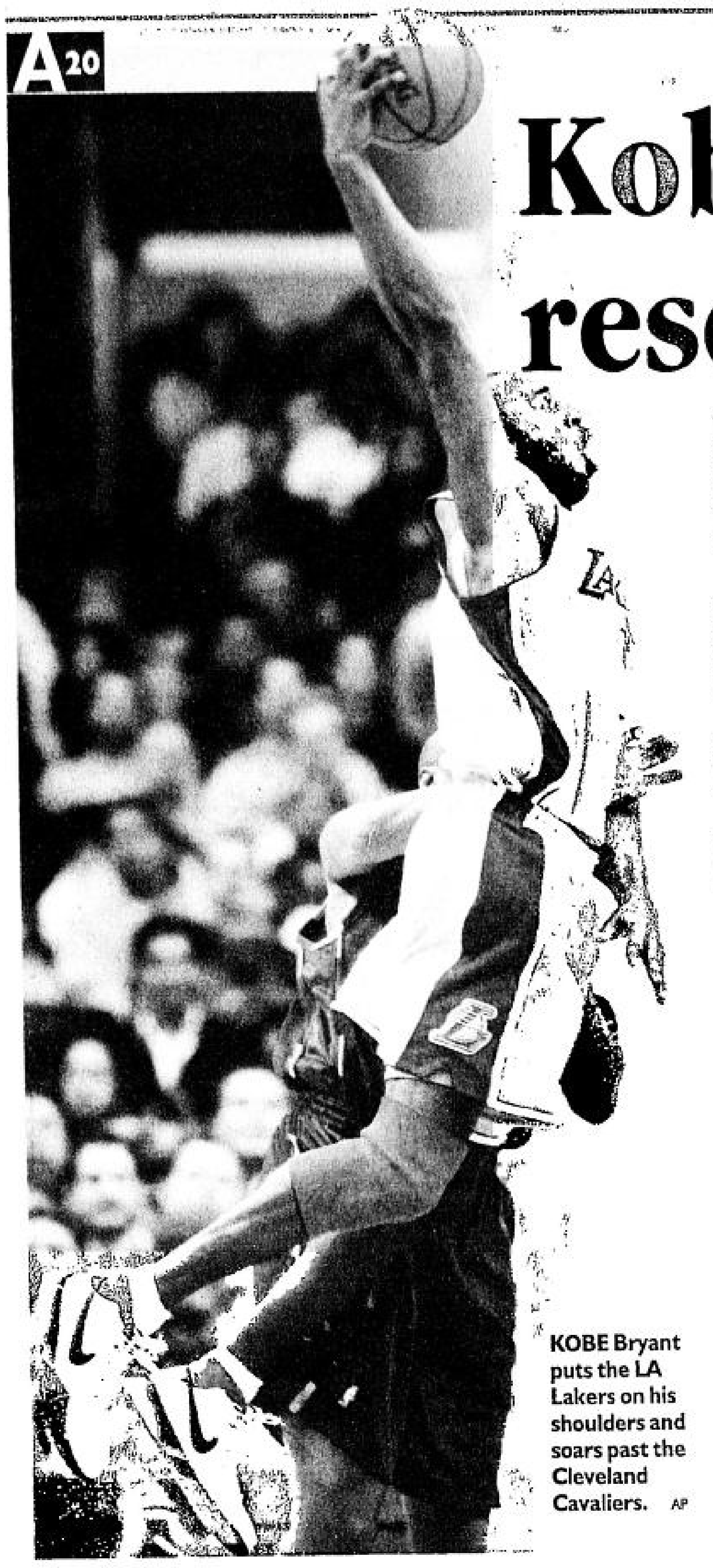
Kobe's jumper rescues Lakers



KOBE Bryant puts the LA Lakers on his shoulders and soars past the Cleveland Cavaliers. AP

LOS ANGELES—KOBE BRYANT HIT A JUMP SHOT in the dying seconds to give the Los Angeles Lakers a 99-98 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday.

Bryant, who sat out part of the game after injuring his wrist, came off the bench in the final quarter to score the winning points with nine seconds remaining.

Lebron James had a chance to steal victory for the Cavaliers but his jump shot rebounded off the rim at the buzzer.

After averaging more than 40 points in his last five contests, Bryant was held to just 27 but he was well backed up by Lamar Odom, who gathered 20 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

"There's been a lot of talk of me being a one-man show but that's simply not the case," Bryant told reporters. "We win games when I score 40 points and we've won when I score 10."

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had a game-high 29 points for the Cavaliers while James finished with 28 and Drew Gooden 15 as the Cleveland lost for the third time in four games.

"It was awesome," said James.

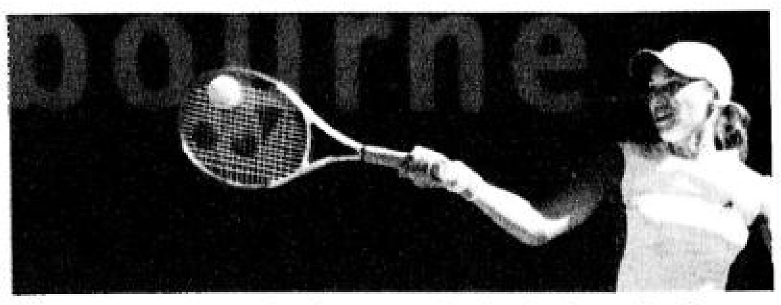
In San Antonio, Rasheed Wallace scored 27 points and Richard Hamilton got 22 as the Detroit Pistons eased past the Spurs, 83-68, in a rematch between last year's title finalists.

It was Detroit's first visit to San Antonio since losing to the NBA champions last June and the Pistons followed up their Christmas Day victory over the Spurs with another dominating performance.

In Phoenix, the Suns had six players in double figures led by a 21-point effort from Shawn Marion as they recorded a comfortable 112-99 win over the Golden State Warriors.

Steve Nash contributed 20 points, 16 assists and seven rebounds in the win while Boris Diaw also scored 20 points. Reuters

- NBA on Solar: 8 a.m.—Washington vs. Indiana (replay at 9 p.m.)



MARTINA Hingis practices in preparation for the Australian Open. The Swiss star, who ruled this tournament before, said she has no aspirations of winning this early in her comeback but hopes to play into the second week of the event. AP

Federer's first foe: Unknown Uzbek

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—FOR the record, Roger, Denis Istomin is right-handed.

Top-ranked Roger Federer was more curious about his first-round rival from Uzbekistan than anything else ahead of next week's Australian Open.

The prospect of a semifinal against third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt could wait, "because that's so far away in the draw. (It) doesn't matter."

Federer had never heard of Istomin before Friday's draw for the season's first major and had some investigating to do.

"I cannot tell you one thing about him," said Federer, admitting he'd tried to do some scouting around the locker room and "nobody knew him either."

The International Tennis Federation and the ATP had limited details on the 19-year-old Istomin, who is entering a Grand Slam tournament for the first time on a special wild card entry granted by Australian Open organizers to the winner of the 2005 Asian Championships.

Federer acknowledges he's slightly wary of the unknown.

"It's going to be hard. I have no clue how old he is, how he looks, if he is left or right-handed," said Federer. "I better find out because I don't want to be facing something very unknown. It's definitely sort of tricky." AP

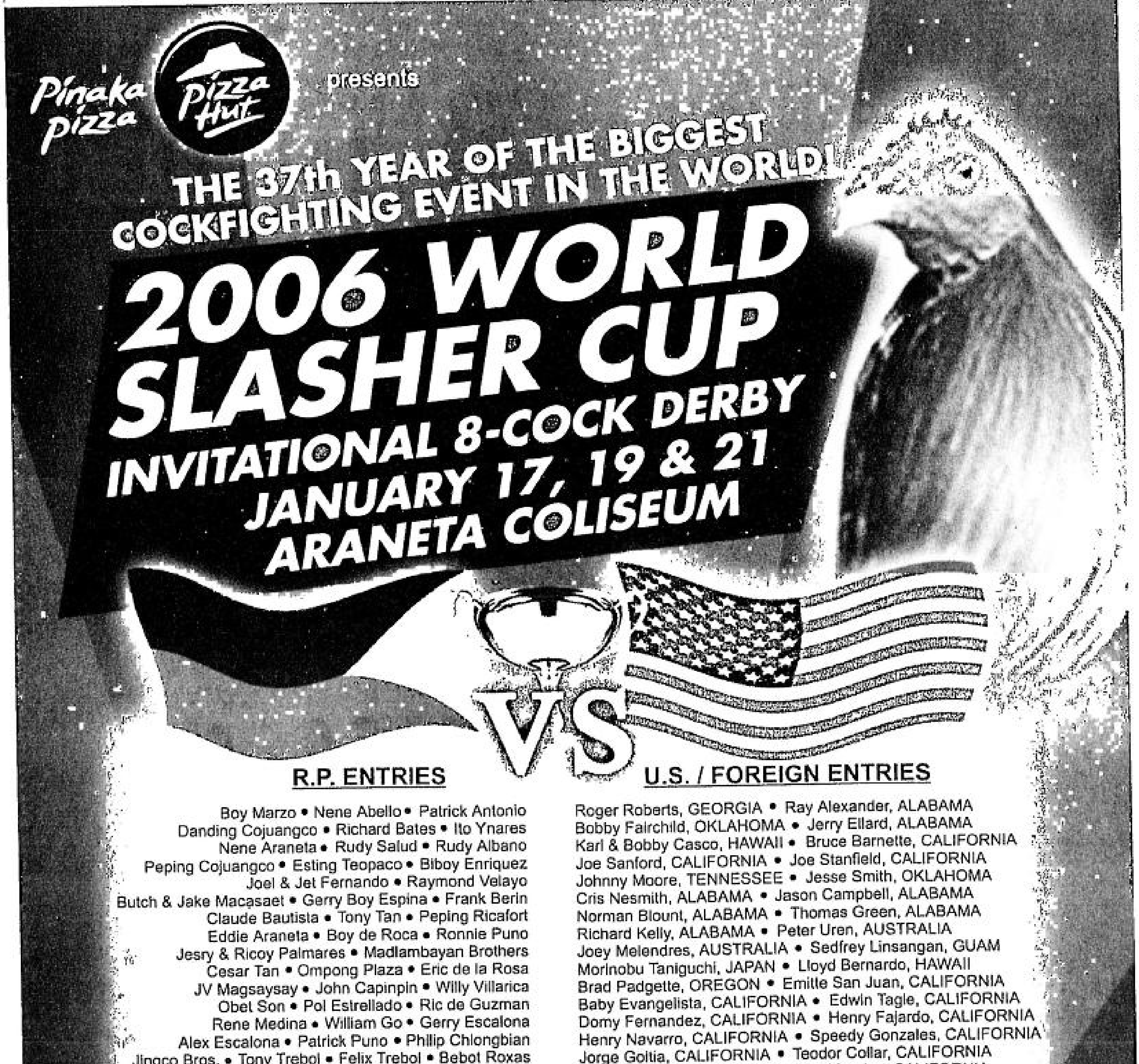
Wie struggles in Sony Open

HONOLULU—MICHELLE WIE SIGNED FOR HER highest score on the PGA Tour, one that sent her to the bottom of the leaderboard Thursday at the Sony Open, and struggled to keep her voice steady while explaining what went wrong. Unable to stop the slide in gusts up to 55 kph (35 mph), Wie stumbled to a 9-over 79 that left her with virtually no hope of becoming the first woman in 61 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour. AP

RACING TIPS

By TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Dancing Spree 1. Epic Energy 4. Last Dance 2. Princess Indy 1.
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Screaming Eagle 6. El Cid 2. Magiliw 7. Sir Olizon 3.
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Bundok Peninsula 2. Candu 6. Erica's Talent 4. Mutiara 3.
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Ballet Danseuse/ Wild Orchid 3. Master King 4. Bellin Bellin 6. Michael Da Dragon 10. La Tienne 2.
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Hidalgo 7. Summer Rain 2. Dancing Queen 6. Slew Dancer 3.
Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—King's Dominion 4. Kai Maki 7. Sharapova 6. Majestic Queen 9.
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Honour N Fame 3. Red Hot Martini 4. Big Spender 1.
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Flying Princess 3. Speed Majesty 7. San Diego Force 1. Wear The Fox Hat 2.
Race 9—(Penta/Tri)—Carlito's way 4. Hoy Sobra Na 5. Detective Daryll 6. Ninety Nine Cents 8. Yo Tero 7.
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Tini Bambini 8. Daldalera 2. Hezagone Babes 1. Aya's Star 4.
Race 11—(Kalashnikov 3. Playing Cool 7.
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Stingray 6. Truly Impressive 8. Open Sky 5. King Yoji 7.
Race 13—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri)—Starlet 13. Maximus 8. Gamby's Attack 3. Shy Girl 10, Samahan 6. Sir Lawrence 1.



WELCOME RP • US/FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS!

Pinaka pizza Pizza Hut presents

THE 37th YEAR OF THE BIGGEST COCKFIGHTING EVENT IN THE WORLD!

2006 WORLD SLASHER CUP
INVITATIONAL 8-COCK DERBY
JANUARY 17, 19 & 21
ARANETA COLISEUM

VS

R.P. ENTRIES

Boy Marzo • Nene Abello • Patrick Antonio
Danding Cojuangco • Richard Bates • Ito Ynares
Nene Araneta • Rudy Salud • Rudy Albano
Peping Cojuangco • Esting Teopaco • Biboy Enriquez
Joel & Jet Fernando • Raymond Velayo
Butch & Jake Macasaet • Gerry Boy Espina • Frank Berin
Claude Bautista • Tony Tan • Peping Ricafort
Eddie Araneta • Boy de Roca • Ronnie Puno
Jesry & Ricoy Palmares • Madlambayan Brothers
Cesar Tan • Ompong Plaza • Eric de la Rosa
JV Magsaysay • John Capinpin • Willy Villarica
Obet Son • Pol Estrellado • Ric de Guzman
Rene Medina • William Go • Gerry Escalona
Alex Escalona • Patrick Puno • Philip Chiongbian
Jingco Bros. • Tony Trebol • Felix Trebol • Bebot Roxas
Max Roxas • Lito Orillaza • Jun Marasigan • Boyet Joson
Chito Tinsay • Boy Royo • Blandy Tolentino
Manolo Lopez • Danny Ty • Reggie Pena • Manuel Julao
Marcel Julao • Jun Julao • Dicky Lim • Frankie Uy
Roger Buenaflor • Efren Canlas • Boy Diaz • Cito Alberto
Lawrence Wacnang • Victor Sierra • Mike Romulo
Jame Uy • Anthony Lim • Boboy de los Santos
Joey de los Santos • Nonoy Gonzales • Jose Paneda
Bobby Doromal • Serge Jimenez • Sonny Lagon
Mauro Prieto • Raffy Prieto • Alex Tang • Jun Sevilla
Edwin Bacud • Ampil P • Juancho Aguirre
Edwin Ramos • Raul Ebeo • Dong Ledesma
Elan Nagano • Paolo Malvar • and others

U.S. / FOREIGN ENTRIES

Roger Roberts, GEORGIA • Ray Alexander, ALABAMA
Bobby Fairchild, OKLAHOMA • Jerry Ellard, ALABAMA
Karl & Bobby Casco, HAWAII • Bruce Barnette, CALIFORNIA
Joe Sanford, CALIFORNIA • Joe Stanfield, CALIFORNIA
Johnny Moore, TENNESSEE • Jesse Smith, OKLAHOMA
Cris Nesmith, ALABAMA • Jason Campbell, ALABAMA
Norman Blount, ALABAMA • Thomas Green, ALABAMA
Richard Kelly, ALABAMA • Peter Uren, AUSTRALIA
Joey Melendres, AUSTRALIA • Sedfrey Linsangan, GUAM
Morinobu Taniguchi, JAPAN • Lloyd Bernardo, HAWAII
Brad Padgette, OREGON • Emille San Juan, CALIFORNIA
Baby Evangelista, CALIFORNIA • Edwin Tagle, CALIFORNIA
Domy Fernandez, CALIFORNIA • Henry Fajardo, CALIFORNIA
Henry Navarro, CALIFORNIA • Speedy Gonzales, CALIFORNIA
Jorge Goltia, CALIFORNIA • Teodor Collar, CALIFORNIA
Ferdie Patam, CALIFORNIA • Toti Morales, CALIFORNIA
Elmo Gayoso, TENNESSEE • Ron Ron Huele, CALIFORNIA
Ronilo Siazon, CALIFORNIA • William Corken, ALABAMA
Christy Borovien, ALABAMA • Johnny Gonzalez, CALIFORNIA
Val Gonzalez, CALIFORNIA • Coco Gonzalez, CALIFORNIA
Mario Gonzalez, CALIFORNIA • Pol Ronnasek, ARIZONA
Dave Ward, ARIZONA • Joe Brown, TENNESSEE
Johnny Philips, GEORGIA • William Leblanc, LOUISIANA
Richard Harris, LOUISIANA • Mario Ceniza, ARIZONA
Jorge Torres, CALIFORNIA • Ed Alpaparo, CALIFORNIA
Regie Barawidan, HAWAII • and others

Host:
Pintakasi of Champions

Champion's Grand Prize Includes:
A BRAND NEW 2006 4x2 PICK-UP

THUNDERBIRD Platinum
CO-SPONSORS
THUNDERBIRD BEXAN XP

PSA honors. . .

From page A17

ion starting at 7 o'clock.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be on hand to pay tribute to all personalities and entities that contributed to another banner year for local sports.

The Chief Executive, along with guest of honor Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco Jr. and Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez, will award the PSA Athlete of the Year trophy to Team Philippines which reigned supreme in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last month.

SEAG triple-gold medalist Sheila Mae Perez heads 22 others who will receive major awards from the country's oldest media group.

All gold medal winners in the SEA Games will receive special citations during the two-hour rites to be telecast on a slightly delayed basis by NBN-4, with Red Bull as sponsor and San Miguel Corp., the PSC, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, the PBA and PBL as supporters.

PSA president Jimmy Cantor of Malaya said all gold medalists are requested to come in their parade uniforms and bring their medals.

All awardees, sports officials and other guests are advised to come early since protocol will be observed once the program begins.

International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde, San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella are among the sportsmen expected to grace the affair.

The complete list of awardees:

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR—Team Philippines

MAJOR AWARDEES

1. Alex Pagulayan (billiards); 2. Manny Pacquiao (pro boxing); 3. Arwind Santos (amateur basketball); 4. Eric Menk (pro basketball); 5. Jennifer Rosales (women's golf); 6. Juvic Pagunsan (men's amateur golf); 7. Harry Tanamor (amateur boxing); 8. Warren Davadilla (pro cycling); 9. Maristela Torres (athletics); 10. Amaya Paz (archery); 11. Miguel Molina (swimming); 12. Sheila Mae Perez (diving); 13. Benjamin Tolentino (rowing); 14. John Baylon (judo); 15. Cecil Mamiit (tennis); 16. Suhod Hakim, drummer, traditional boat racing; 17.Ruperto Sabijon, steersman, traditional boat racing; 18. Manuel Maya, rower, traditional boat racing; 19. Junray Dayumad, rower, traditional boat racing; 20. Ricky Sardena, rower, traditional boat racing; 21. Rene Catalan, wushu; 22. Sander Severino (paralympics); 23. Jonathan Hernandez (horseracing)

CITATIONS

1. San Miguel Corp.; 2. Asian Formula 3; 3. Erlina Pecante; 4. Manila Sports Council; 5. JVC; 6. First Gentleman Foundation; 7. V-League; 8. Cito Dayrit; 9. William 'Butch' Ramirez; 10. Mark Paragua; 11. Jayvie Agojo; 12. Brian Villoria ; 13. Boom Boom Bautista; 14. Juelro 'Jag' Lejano; 15. Eddie Torres; 16. Philippine Practical Shooting team; 17. Toni Leviste:

SPECIAL CITATIONS

All gold medal winners in the 23rd SEA Games

TONY SIDDAYAO AWARDS

1. Wolen Superal; 2. Miguel Tabuena

MOST OUTSTANDING NSA: Philippine Dragon Boat Federation

SPECIAL AWARD: Philippine Paralympics team, Joseph Dumuk

SPORTSWATCH

Criterium race set tomorrow

THE CYCLING SEARCH INVITATIONAL (CSI) CRITERIUM RACE UNVEILS its kickoff leg tomorrow in Tarlac with the aim of discovering fresh faces for the sport. The race, which will also feature some of the country's top riders, will flag off at 8 a.m. Tarlac City Mayor Genaro Mendoza, Vice Mayor Tess Cabal and City Sports development officer Arnold Rodriguez will be present at the start of the race. The event, presented by Philpost, features four divisions—youth, executive, masters and men's elite and under-23—with 12 teams entered in each category. Marikina and The Fort in Taguig City will host the next two legs of the event also backed by Pagcor, PCSO, Aktivade Thirst Quencher, Monterey, PhilCycling and the Philippine Sports Commission and media partners NU 107, Yes FM and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

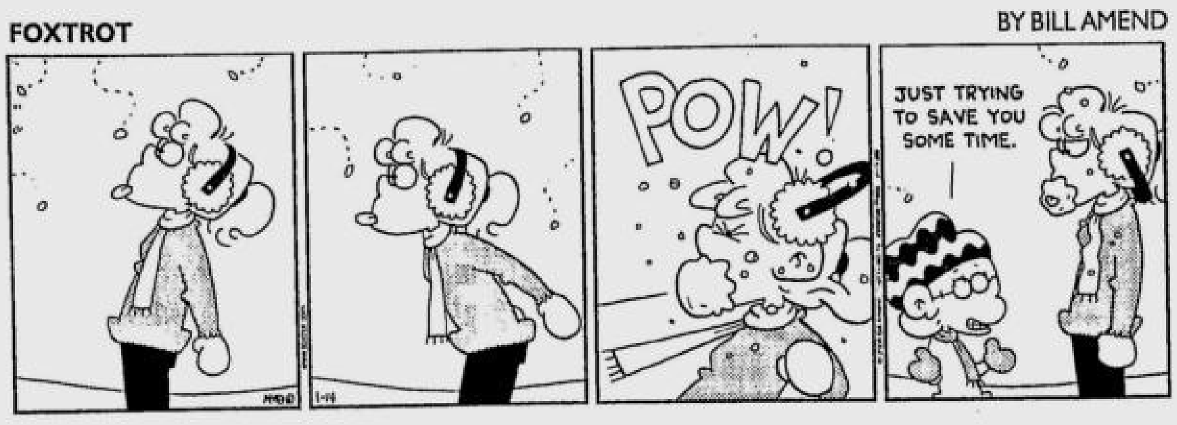
80 fights at Roligon today

DERBY CHAMPIONS FROM DIFFERENT PROVINCES COMPETE TODAY in the "Kayang-Kaya 4-cock Derby" at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. 80 fights are scheduled in the event that kicks off at 5 p.m. Hosted by Mega Promotions, the derby stakes a guaranteed prize of P400,000, with an entry fee of P6,600. Meanwhile, the number of entries is swelling for Roligon's "16th Anniversary 6-cock derby" on Jan. 31, Feb. 2, 4, 7 and 9. An eye-popping prize of P4 million is at stake. Entry fee is P11,000. A brand new Toyota Innova will be given to the fastest win champion.

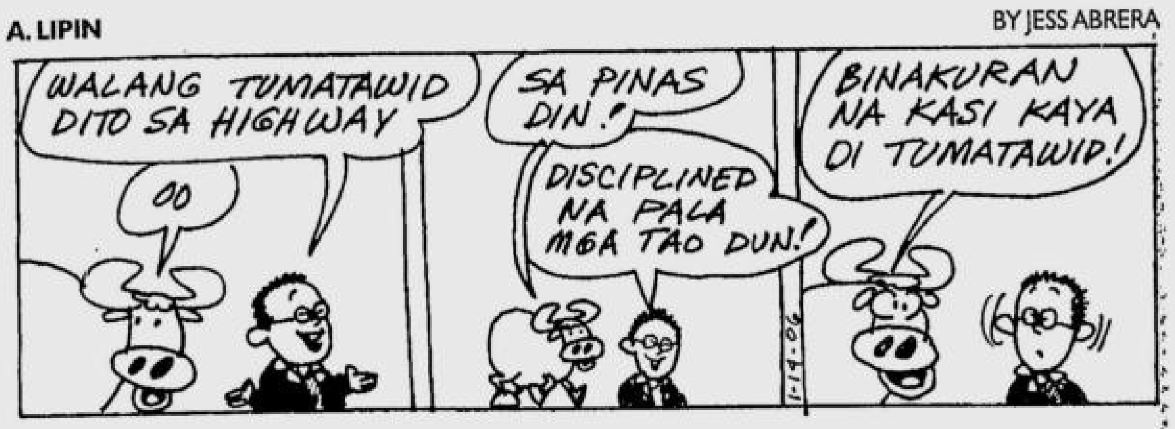
Derby stakes P3M, two cars

A COOL P3 MILLION PLUS TWO BRAND NEW TOYOTA CARS ARE AT stake in the Makati Coliseum's "Summer Salpukan 6-cock derby" on Apr. 27, 29, May 2, 4, 6, 11 and 13. The WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. headed by promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co will host the super cockfest. Orillaza said as per WTJ policy, all prizes will be given to the winners right after the derby. For more inquiries, please contact 896-3545 and 895-6475.

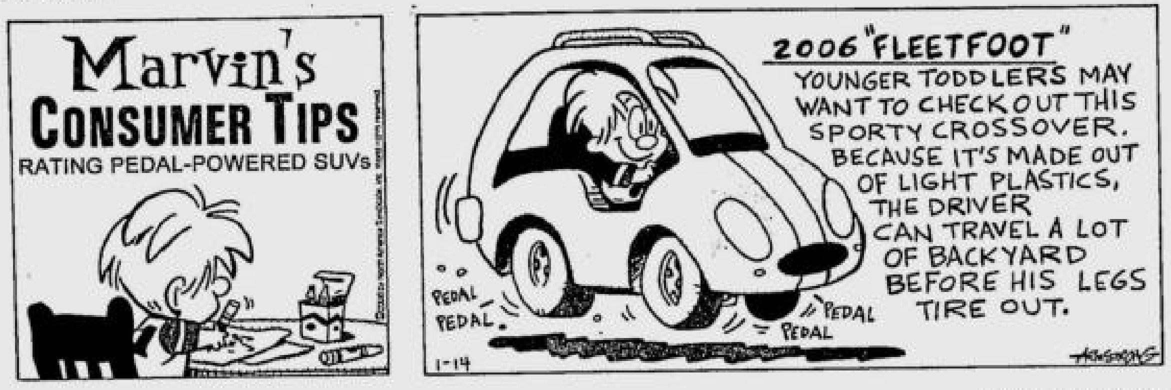
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


POW!
JUST TRYING TO SAVE YOU SOME TIME.

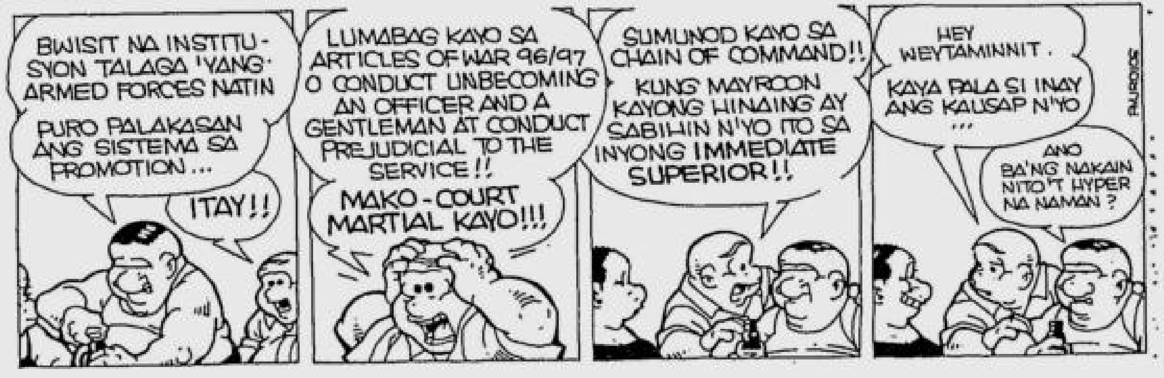
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


WALANG TUMATAWID DITO SA HIGHWAY
OO
SA PINAS DIN!
DISCIPLINED NA PALA MGA TAO DUN!
BINAKURAN NA KASI KAYA DI TUMATAWID!

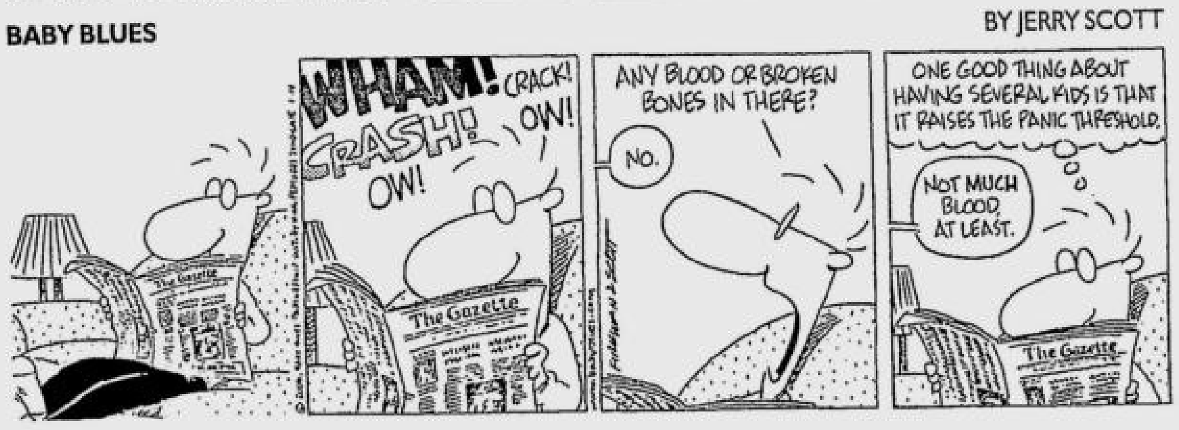
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Marvin's CONSUMER TIPS
RATING PEDAL-POWERED SUVs
2006 "FLEETFOOT"
YOUNGER TODDLERS MAY WANT TO CHECK OUT THIS SPORTY CROSSOVER. BECAUSE IT'S MADE OUT OF LIGHT PLASTICS, THE DRIVER CAN TRAVEL A LOT OF BACKYARD BEFORE HIS LEGS TIRE OUT.
PEDAL PEDAL
PEDAL PEDAL
1-14

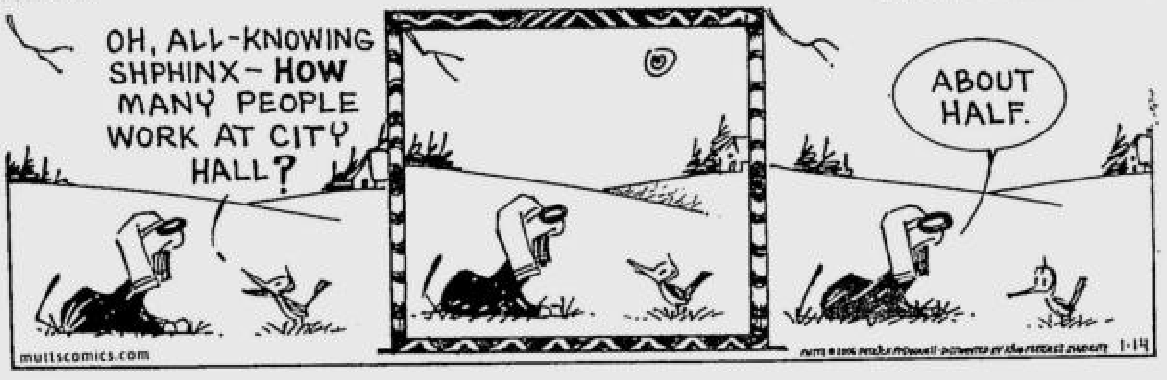
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


BWISIT NA INSTITUSYON TALAGA 'YANG ARMED FORCES NATIN
PURO PALAKASAN ANG SISTEMA SA PROMOTION...
ITAY!!
LUMABAG KAYO SA ARTICLES OF WAR 96/97 O CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN AT CONDUCT PREJUDICIAL TO THE SERVICE!!
MAKO-COURT MARTIAL KAYO!!!
SUMUNOD KAYO SA CHAIN OF COMMAND!!
KUNG MAYROON KAYONG HINAING AY SABIHIN N'YO ITO SA INYONG IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR!!
HEY WEYTAMINNIT.
KAYA PALA SI INAY ANG KAUSAP N'YO...
ANO BA'NG NAKAIN NITO'T HYPER NA NAMAN?

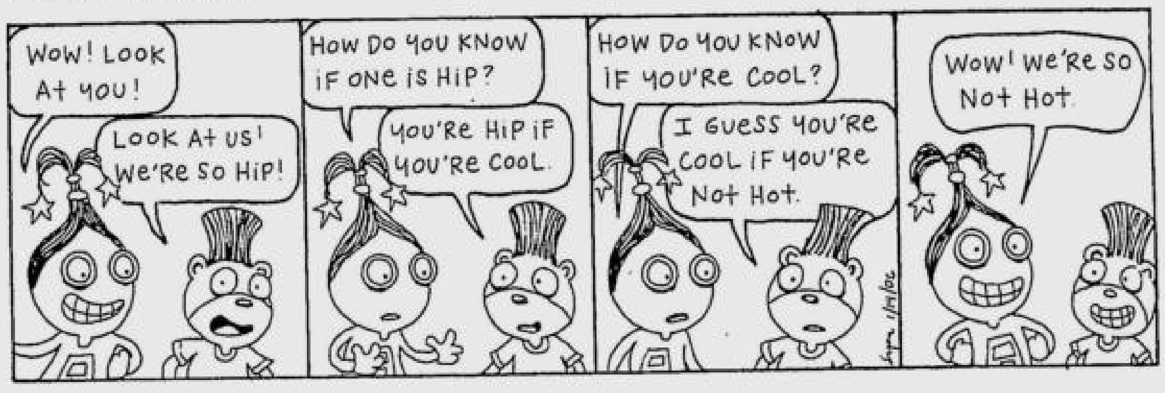
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAM! CRACK! CRASH! OW! OW!
The Gazette
ANY BLOOD OR BROKEN BONES IN THERE?
NO.
ONE GOOD THING ABOUT HAVING SEVERAL KIDS IS THAT IT RAISES THE PANIC THRESHOLD.
NOT MUCH BLOOD, AT LEAST.

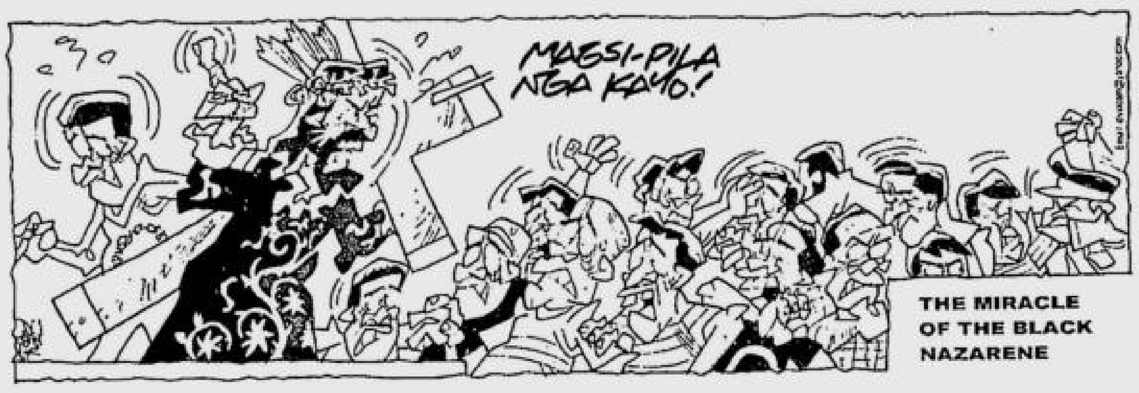
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, ALL-KNOWING SHPHINX– HOW MANY PEOPLE WORK AT CITY HALL?
ABOUT HALF.
muttscomics.com
1-14

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Wow! Look At you!
Look At us! We're So HiP!
How Do You Know iF one is HiP?
You're HiP iF You're CooL.
How Do You Know IF You're Cool?
I Guess You're CooL iF You're Not Hot.
Wow! We're So Not Hot.

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MAGSI-PILA NGA KAYO!

THE MIRACLE OF THE BLACK NAZARENE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very courageous. You have high ideals for yourself and others. You are not daunted by danger. Once you make your mind up, it's done. Your dogged persistence allows you to overcome all obstacles. You're concerned with social issues. In the year ahead, you have an important choice to make. Choose wisely. **Birthdate of:** Emily Watson, actress; Faye Dunaway, actress; Albert Schweitzer, Nobel Peace Prize-winning physician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's Full Moon makes it hard to please both home and family, and your job and career. You're going to have to make a choice.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're not sure whether to go forward with career plans or not. Quite possibly, this decision relates to publishing and education. In a few days, you'll know.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): If you can't agree with what others want to do about shared property, do nothing. After this Full Moon, your choices will be more apparent and obvious to you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today's Full Moon is in your sign. This is the only time all year this occurs. That's why you feel both energetic and lost. Relax. Don't push the river.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your bright ideas about how to improve your job and the way you do it are good. Trust yourself about this. Nevertheless, today might not be the day to talk about it. Just wait.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Parents must be patient with children today. They feel the Full Moon too! Just accept their excitable nature. Expect tension with romantic liaisons.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Even though your job makes demands on your time, you have to focus on home and family today. But it's a tough choice because you can't be in two places at once.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't try to persuade others to agree with your beliefs and ideas today. Today is a Full Moon, and people are a bit on edge. Choose another time to state your case.

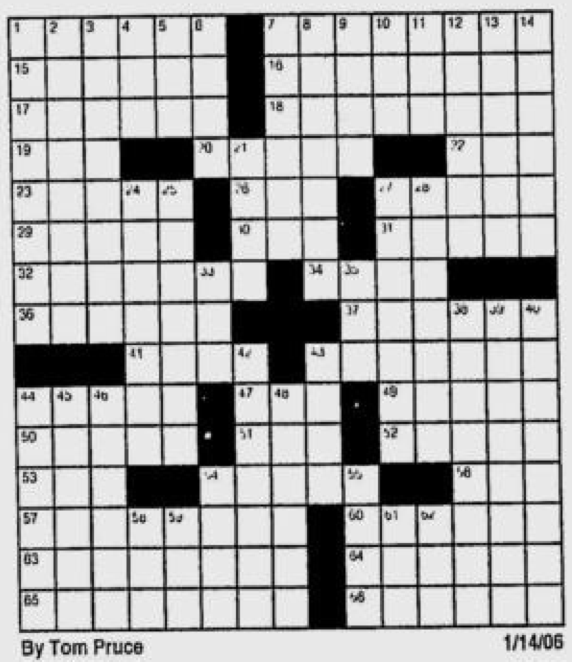
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be concerned about financial matters or your own possessions today. Don't make hasty decisions. Today's Full Moon could get things all out of proportion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be extra-diplomatic and patient with loved ones and partners today. You have no choice. This is the only time all year that the Full Moon opposes your sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be patient with co-workers. It's a Full Moon today, and everybody is a bit off-base. People who work in emergency wards or for the police can attest to this.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't try to win an argument with a friend today. It isn't worth it. Your friendship is more important than this temporary victory, isn't it?

DAILY CROSSWORD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36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43
44 45 46 47 48 49
50 51 52
53 54 55 56
57 58 59 60 61 62
63 64
65 66

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
1/14/06

ACROSS
1 Test papers
7 Goblets
15 Lug laboriously
16 Terrier type
17 Dairy product
18 Shrinking Asian body of water
19 Diligent insect
20 Small valleys
22 Divested
23 Susan Dey series
26 Mayberry aunt
27 Graph starter?
29 Let up
30 Lingerie buy
31 Clan emblem
32 Some consonants
34 Freight-car freeloader
36 Senior
37 Evades by cunning
41 Beatty and Buntline
43 Liner's highway
44 Ivan of tennis
47 Pers. pension
49 Oklahoma oil town
50 Gather together
51 Myrna of "The Thin Man"
52 Small, silvery fish
53 Liveliness
54 Yertle the Turtle creator
56 Slap cuffs on
57 Warbling like a warbler
60 Reach one's destination
63 Curvy opening
64 "The Piano" co-star
65 Nearest points in orbits
66 Well-practiced

DOWN
1 Storming the ramparts
2 Artur the pianist
3 Type of pony
4 Tankard filler
5 Absolutely!
6 Risked a ticket
7 One of two on the phone
8 Racetrack near Miami
9 Large, roomy boats
10 Director Ang
11 Director Lupino
12 Donkey's enticement
13 "Seinfeld" character
14 Not often
21 Subsides
24 Goes to
25 Sneaky mammals?
27 WWII craft
28 Gangster
33 Inc. in Great Britain
35 Lyric poem
38 Principal ore of lead
39 One who subjugates
40 Driver's restraint
42 Quiet!
43 Chimes in
44 Commuter's computer
45 Come into prominence
46 Logarithms inventor
48 Casual sketches
54 King's address
55 Japanese rice beverage
58 Lanai garland
59 Act the straggler
61 "Oedipus __"
62 Tombstone letters

Friday's Puzzle Solved

G	R	A	D	■	C	O	S	T	■	R	A	B	I	D
R	I	L	E	■	O	M	A	R	■	E	L	I	D	E
E	G	O	S	■	M	O	L	E	■	N	I	G	E	R
C	O	U	C	H	P	O	T	A	T	O	■	C	A	N
O	R	D	E	A	L	■	■	T	H	I	G	H	■	■
■	■	■	N	S	Y	N	C	■	O	R	I	E	N	T
B	R	E	T	T	■	O	A	K	S	■	G	E	E	R
L	I	Z	■	Y	A	N	K	E	E	S	■	S	O	O
A	F	R	O	■	D	E	E	P	■	A	M	E	N	D
S	T	A	N	C	E	■	S	T	E	N	O	■	■	■
■	■	P	O	L	E	S	■	■	S	T	R	E	S	S
A	P	O	■	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	S	C	U	P
F	A	U	N	S	■	R	E	N	O	■	E	L	I	A
A	G	N	E	S	■	G	A	R	R	■	L	A	T	H
R	E	D	D	Y	■	E	M	I	T	■	S	T	E	N

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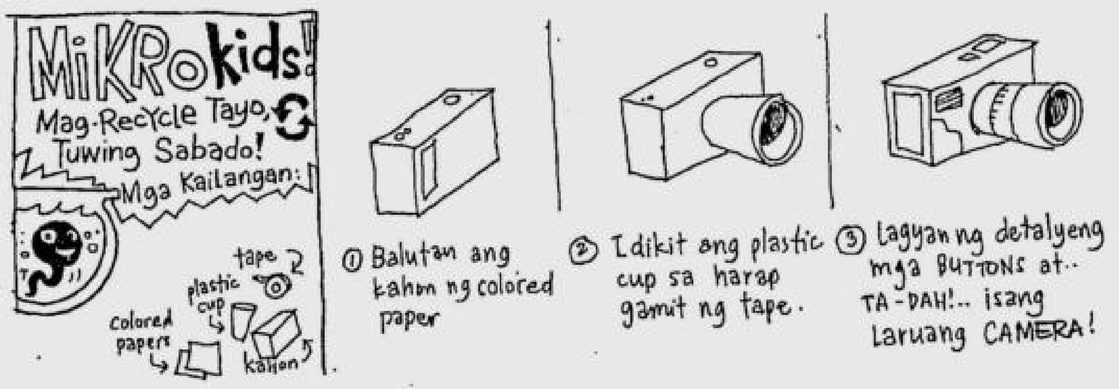
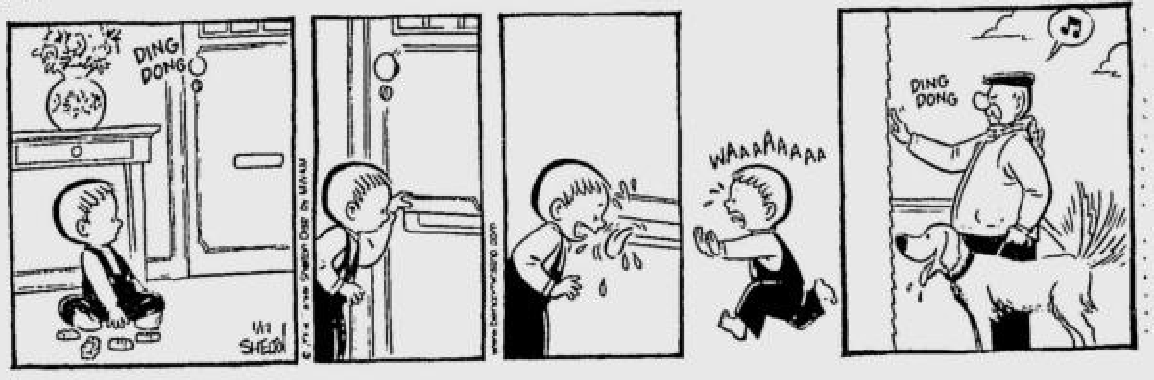
1/14/06

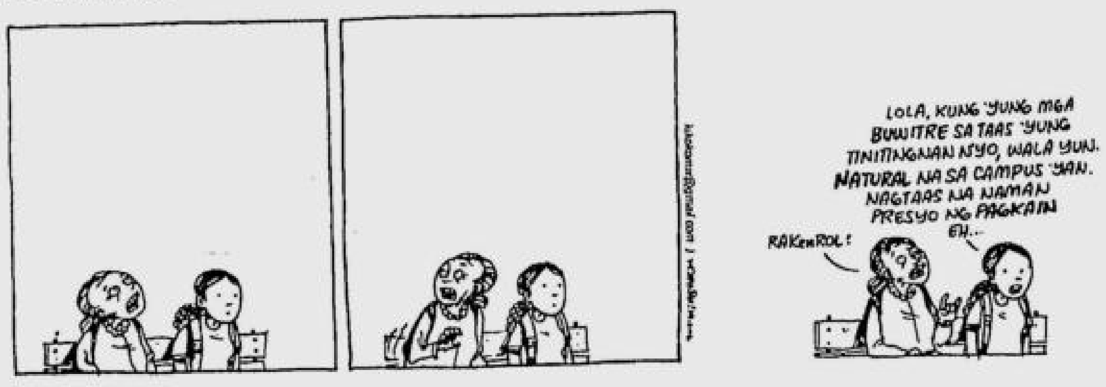
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRokids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
tape
plastic cup
colored papers
kahon
① Balutan ang kahon ng colored paper
② Idikit ang plastic cup sa harap gamit ng tape.
③ lagyan ng detalyeng mga BUTTONS at.. TA-DAH!.. isang laruang CAMERA!

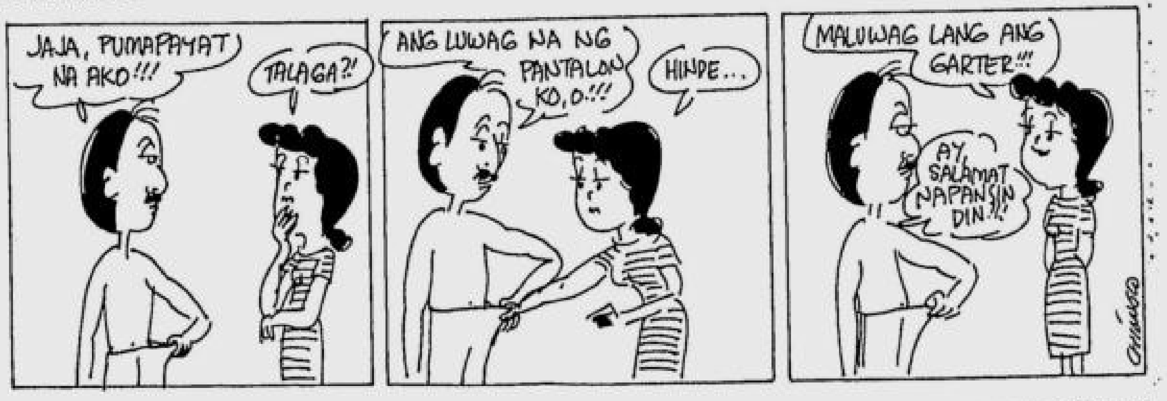
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


DING DONG
WAAAAAAAA
DING DONG

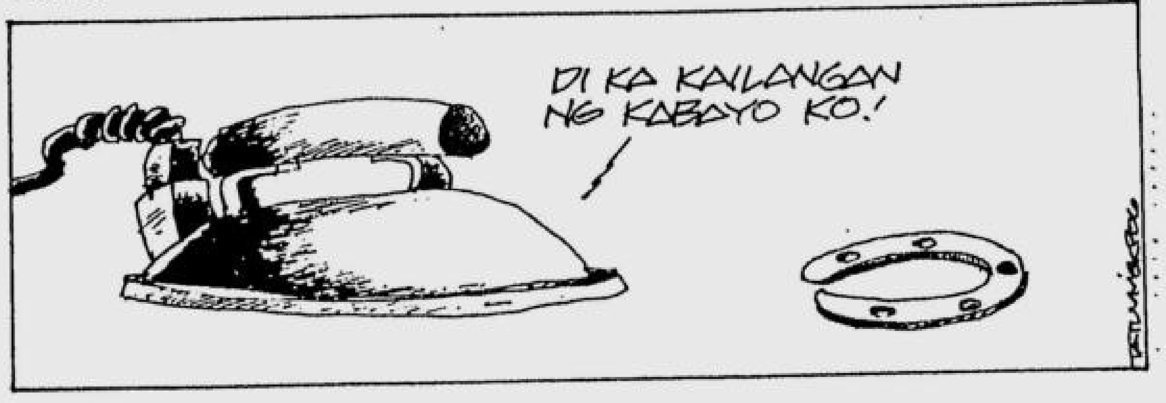
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


LOLA, KUNG 'YUNG MGA BUWITRE SA TAAS 'YUNG TINITINGNAN N'YO, WALA YUN. NATURAL NA SA CAMPUS 'YAN. NAGTAAS NA NAMAN PRESYO NG PAGKAIN EH...
RAKenROL!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, PUMAPAYAT NA AKO!!!
TALAGA?!
ANG LUWAG NA NG PANTALON KO, O!!!
HINDE...
MALUWAG LANG ANG GARTER!!!
AY, SALAMAT NAPANSIN DIN!!!

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KA KAILANGAN NG KABAYO KO!

AWESOME BACK TO BACK ATTACK!

TWO JAM-PACKED TV SHOWS, ONE TIME SLOT

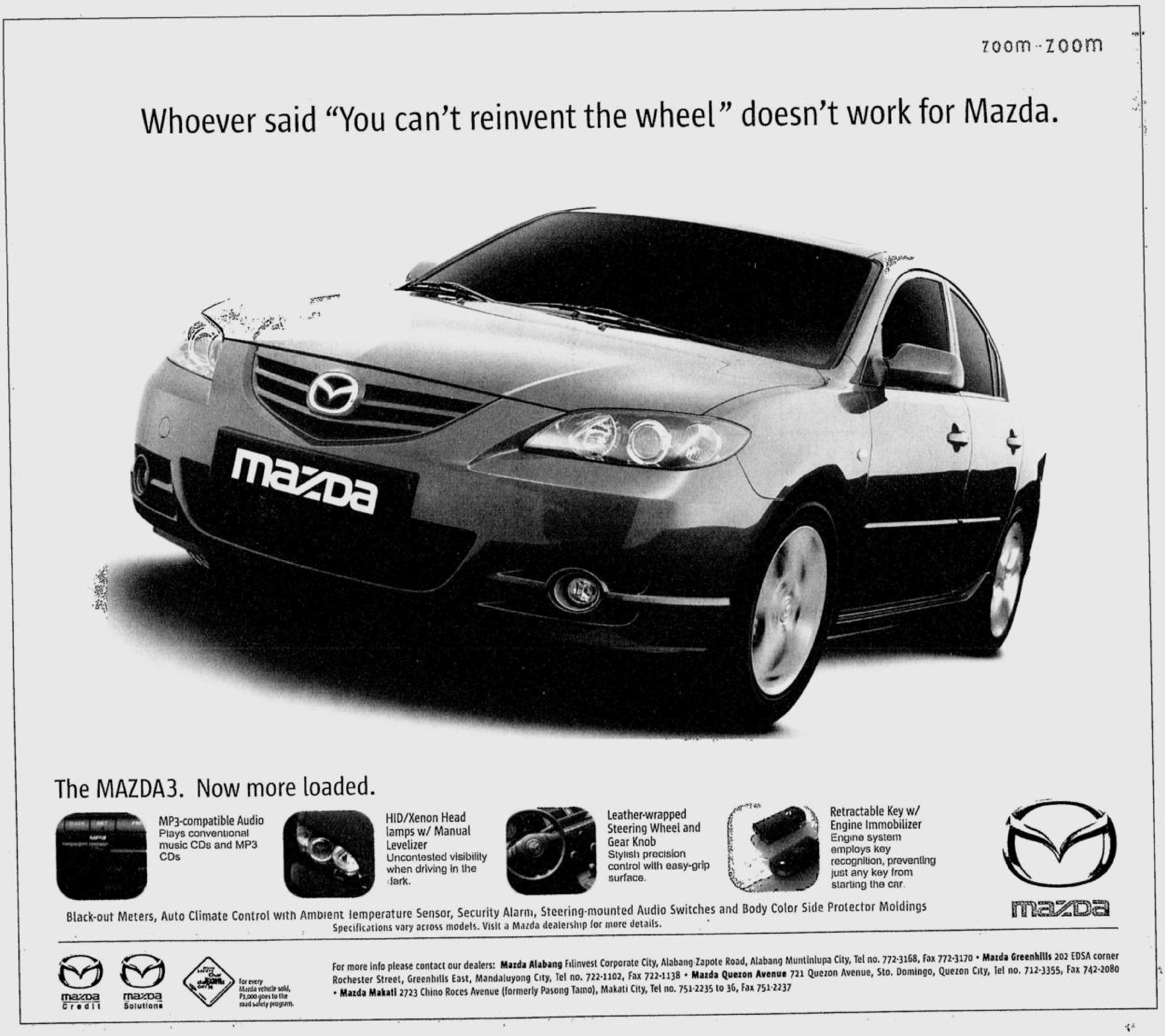
MAN & MACHINE

AUTO EXTREME

MAN & MACHINE, the one of a kind lifestyle show that's all about the art of living smart, keeps you in the know on many aspects of your modern lifestyle. Get the latest tech specs on gadgets and gizmos for work and play, the latest trends on sports and hobbies, the lowdown on the right gear to enhance your total well being, and so much more! It's filled to the brim with valuable info on the most interesting and diverse set of topics, presented in a format that'll keep you riveted! So tune-in and get your gear on!

Now on its fourth year, the hottest TV show on cars and motoring kicks-in to higher gear with more exciting features on both the local and international automotive scene. Get more meat on the topics you really want to know about, on anything with wheels and an engine... Off-roading, Drag & Circuit Racing, Tuning & Modification, maintenance tips, extensive test drives of the latest from local manufacturers, and hot features on car shows from here and around the globe... that's the exciting world of AUTO EXTREME! -Get in!

SATURDAYS
5:00 to 6:00 PM on RPN 9
Tune in & Max Out!



zoom-zoom

Whoever said "You can't reinvent the wheel" doesn't work for Mazda.

The MAZDA3. Now more loaded.

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E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

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Marco Sison plays role of a lifetime

By Rito P. Asilo

IT'S BEEN 24 YEARS SINCE "MAKE Believe" struck gold and made Marco Sison a top recording star. But, the dashing balladeer is not one to rest on his laurels. He continues to enthrall his followers with his passion for music, public service—and the theater!

After releasing his 17th and latest album, "Marco for All Seasons" (that comes with the appropriately titled VCD, "Videoke King"), Sison returns to the legitimate stage to play the role of a lifetime—and sink his teeth into a subject that's close to his heart: Love for country.

Despotic

In Nestor U. Torre and Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel's "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," a musical based on Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr.'s book about the despotic Martial Law regime, Marco plays the senator in a story that dramatizes the effects of Martial Law on the lives of members of one family, the Pimentels, and how they struggled to keep their principles and integrity intact during one of the country's darkest periods.

Marco, himself a politician (he is currently a provincial board member in Laguna), shares that the musical has more to offer than mere entertainment: "'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' is powerful. But, it isn't just about people empowerment or about one man's quixotic quest for freedom.

More personal

"For me, it works on a more personal level. It vivifies the Filipino's struggle to fight for freedom and democracy by zeroing in on how an authoritarian rule impinges on the family.

"Moreover, it reinforces my belief that a man who stands by his principles can make a difference. You don't have to be a *trapo* (traditional politician) to serve the public. Through four illegal arrests, this man fought to keep his family together, and rose to become one of the country's most influential political minds."

Make no mistake, though, the production is not just a theatrical lesson in history and politics. The personal stories depicted in "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" are also told in soaring dramatic and musical highlights that showcase the compositions of Bing, who has previously composed songs for the popular religious musical revue, "Nasaan si Hesus?," and the musical arrangements of Jun Murillo.

For Marco, performing in the production is also an enriching albeit relevant trip down memory lane.

Not only is the musical mounted to observe the 20th year since the Edsa Revolution, it likewise allows the singer to look back at his successful previous forays in the field of musical theater. He has also tried the movies (Ishmael Bernal's "Menor de Edad" and Laurice Guillen's "Beautiful Girl"), but his fondest memories are of the theater.

Hitmaker

In the '80s, the hitmaker—the velvety voice behind the classic OPM ditties, "My Love Will See You Through," "Landas," "Si Aida, Si Lorna o si Fe" and "I'll Face Tomorrow—stretched his thespic wings and dabbled in stage work *via* the groundbreaking "Katy!"

He may not have appeared in a lot of stage productions since, but the experience has immensely bolstered his confidence—he has even put up his own theater group, Tabing (Tanghalang Biñan) in his hometown!

Frustration

He recalls, "When I did 'Katy!,' I remember crying my eyes out at nine in the morning out of frustration—because I couldn't find the soul of the character I was portraying (he played Katy dela Cruz' husband). But, my director was patient with me. The experience was very fulfilling, and it gave me an unusual burst of self-confidence!"

In "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," which will be performed on Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. with a 3 p.m. matinee on Jan. 28 at the Meralco Theater, Marco's confidence, maturity, and willingness to lose himself in his character will be on full display.

Sharing the stage with Marco is gifted singer-actress Jane Diaz, who plays the senator's wife, Bing. Call Ruby at 851-3120 or Sara at 552-6733.

SISON. Theater has bolstered his confidence.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

VCF celebrates volunteerism

By Mona Gonzalez

"WHETHER YOU HAVE A LOT OF MATERIAL things in life or not, you can still contribute great things to people," says Franco Laurel. After putting together the Victory Christian Fellowship's (VCF) music video, "Celebrate Life," the singer definitely speaks from experience.

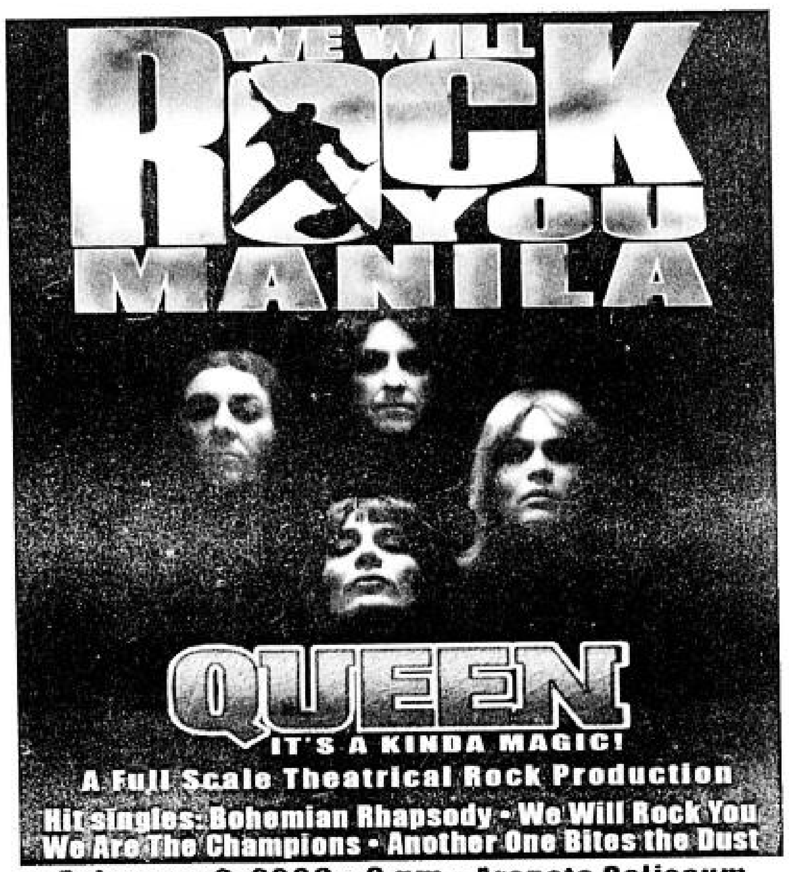
"Celebrate Life" gathered celebrities (including director Sockie Fernandez) to work on the video.

Potential

VCF Alabang's pastor, Ariel Marquez, immediately saw the video's potential. "Media can influence different generations of people," he said. "This is a practical way to convey Christianity. It is a way of life."

The music video also coincides with VCF Alabang's seventh anniversary. VCF originally started 21 years ago at the University Belt in Manila. Through the years, it has expanded to 10 congregations in Metro Manila, 27 in the provinces, and several churches outside the

VCF/ A2-4



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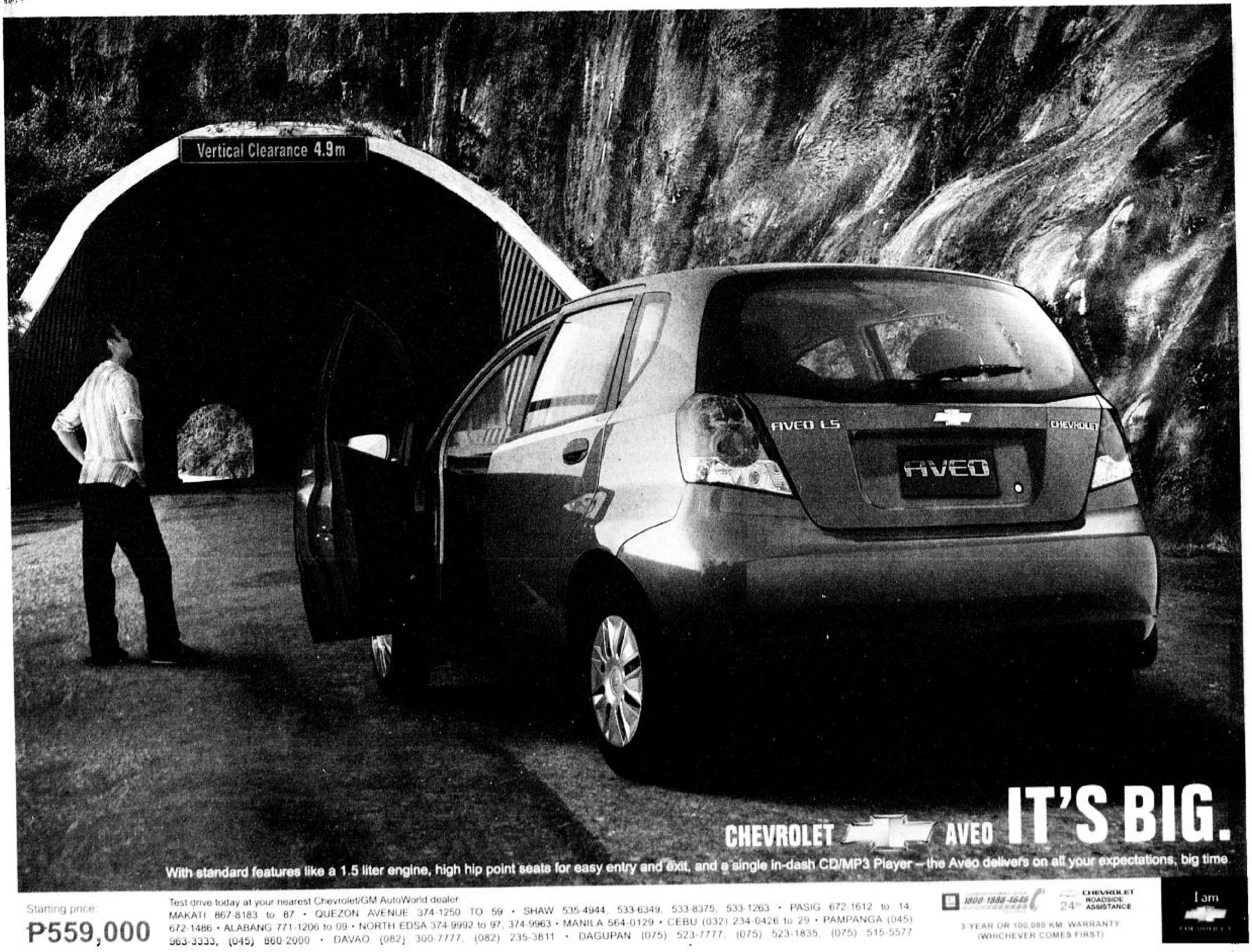

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Best for the New Year at Dusit

JOIN DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO AS they journey anew to a year of greater promise as the hotel showcase Asian hospitality, at its finest this January.

From Jan. 29 to 31, The Café joins in celebrating the Chinese New Year and adds in its selection traditional Chinese menu specialties.

Well-loved Benkay Japanese Restaurant brings back this month of January the 'Nabe Kaiseki' (Japanese Hot Pot Fair).

Have a taste of authentic Vietnamese cuisine as Thien Duong's chef Nguyen gives diners a sample of his 'Executive Set Menu' creations made available for lunch and dinner.

Tickle your palates this January at Benjarong Royal Thai restaurant with chef Tun's flavorful creations designed to give you a taste of Thailand's rich heritage. Offered from January 18 to 31, 2006.

Calling all food lovers with big appetite. Fiesta San Miguel treats diners to a whole new dimension in Filipino dining as it offer its newest lunch and dinner offering- the 'Pinoy Big Bunch.' Take your pick from six (6) mouth-watering 'Pinoy Big Bunch' menus during lunchtime (11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) for a complete meal for only P250 nett per person. All menus are inclusive of a refreshing round of iced tea or 'sago't gulaman'. Satisfy your appetite with 'Pinoy Big Bunch' for a truly rewarding lunch meal this January and February 2006.

In celebration of the Filipino spirit, Fiesta San Miguel features delectable a la carte dishes in its 'Chef's Recommendations' to commemorate the "Ati-Atihan Festival" of Kalibo, Aklan and the "Sinulog Festival" of Cebu. Offered for lunch and dinner for the whole month of January 2006.

For inquiries, please call 867-3333. Advance dining reservation is advised.

January blast at City Garden Hotel

TO GREET THE NEW YEAR, CITY GARDEN Hotel Makati is offering wonderful treats for everyone.

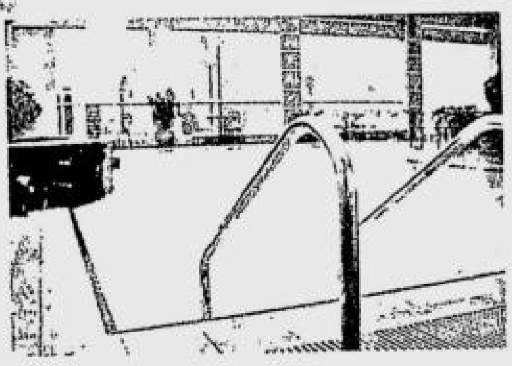
After a month-long of festivities, a great way to spend a relaxing day or a long weekend with your loved ones is to stay at one of City Garden Hotel's tastefully elegant guest rooms. For as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis , it is inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. Two (2) children below 12 years of age, stay for free.

For those after-holiday get-togethers and reunions, its Party Package comes for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks. Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrangements, and other amenities. Thus, providing value for money and hassle-free arrangements. Reception venues may be held at its cozy, fully -equipped function rooms or at the al fresco Roofdeck, with a wonderful view of the metropolis.

For those one-on-one meetings, it has two restaurants that you can choose from. The Le Jardin Restaurant, with its warm and relaxing dining experience, and its more popular Roofdeck Bar and Grill that gives you a cozy dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline.

Those needing extra pampering after the holiday rush, the Body & Face by Mendez at the hotel's Upper Penthouse level have special packages for individuals, couples or group. Try their Revitalizing Glow Package which comes with a choice of Salt Body Glow or Body Gommage and a choice of Swedish or Shiatsu Massage or thei r Rejuvenating Escape that gives you a choice of Combination or Aromatherapy Massage and a choice of Men's Facial or Oil Control Facial or Nurturing Facial.

City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .



Waterfront hosts dinner for ATF

WATERFRONT HOTELS AND CASINOS, the largest Filipino-owned and managed hotel group in the Philippines, is scheduled to host an exciting evening of food, culture and camaraderie in a "Waterfront Night" for the buyers, sellers and VIPs of the Asean Tourism Forum (ATF) on Jan. 18, 6 p.m., at the sprawling gardens of Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao. Guests of the Waterfront Night will be treated to a celebration of the Festivals of the Philippine Islands, featuring the best of the best of the three regions, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, highlighting the many beautiful facets that make up our country's heritage. The evening will also present a show of traditional songs and dances as well as all-embracing culinary theaters of regional delicacies. A fashion show featuring Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao's legacies as interpreted by one of the country's foremost fashion designers, Randy Ortiz will also be one highlight of the evening. The show is professionally choreographed by premiere Philippine fashion director Jackie Aquino. The evening's concept also portrays Waterfront Hotels & Casinos' four Hotel properties strategically scattered across the regions - Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino and Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino in the Visayas, the more recently acquired Manila Pavilion Hotel in Mindanao and the evening's venue, Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao in Luzon.

Waterfront Hotels & Casinos is proud to host one of the official dinner activities of the Asean Tourism Forum (ATF). The Hotel group leaves no stone unturned for this rare opportunity to forge relationships and build ties while making the ATF guests feel right at home.

The Asean Tourism Forum is a cooperative regional effort to promote the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region as one tourist destination. Each year, the hosting of the ATF is rotated among member countries. This year, Davao City, Philippines plays host to ATF 2006 themed "Celebrating The Many Faces Of Asean", as they mark the 25th anniversary of this event since its inauguration in Malaysia in 1981.

KUNG HEI FAT CHOY FROM THE BELLEVUE HOTEL
Usher in the Year of the Dog with a loud bang at southern Metro Manila's most happening hotspot, The Bellevue Hotel. From Jan. 27 to 29, enjoy a bountiful Chinese themed buffet especially prepared by guest chef Jin Lai He from Guangzhou, China. Savor favorite Chinese dishes such as Roasted Peking Duck, Braised Abalone in Oyster Sauce, Steamed Lapu Lapu in Lotus Leaves, Steamed Crab and many more. Get 2006 forecasts from a guest astrologer or take home a special giveaway. Free for those taking the lunch and dinner buffets on Jan. 28 and 29. A Dragon Dance will drive away evil spirits and let the good fortune flow during lunch on Jan. 29. Kung Hei Fat Choy from the Bellevue! For inquiries, call 771-8181. The Bellevue Hotel's Cake of the Month this January is Symphony, a combination of creamy orange marzipan base and rich Williams chocolate cream pudding. Better yet, drop by The Bellevue's pastry corner and sample the best breads and sweets as lovingly made by the hotel's sweet-toothed pastry chefs. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

The Marco Polo Davao leads hotel chain in Asia

THE MARCO POLO DAVAO TOPPED ALL THE Marco Polo Hotels in Asia in the annual guest satisfaction survey conducted by the Marco Polo Hotel Group.

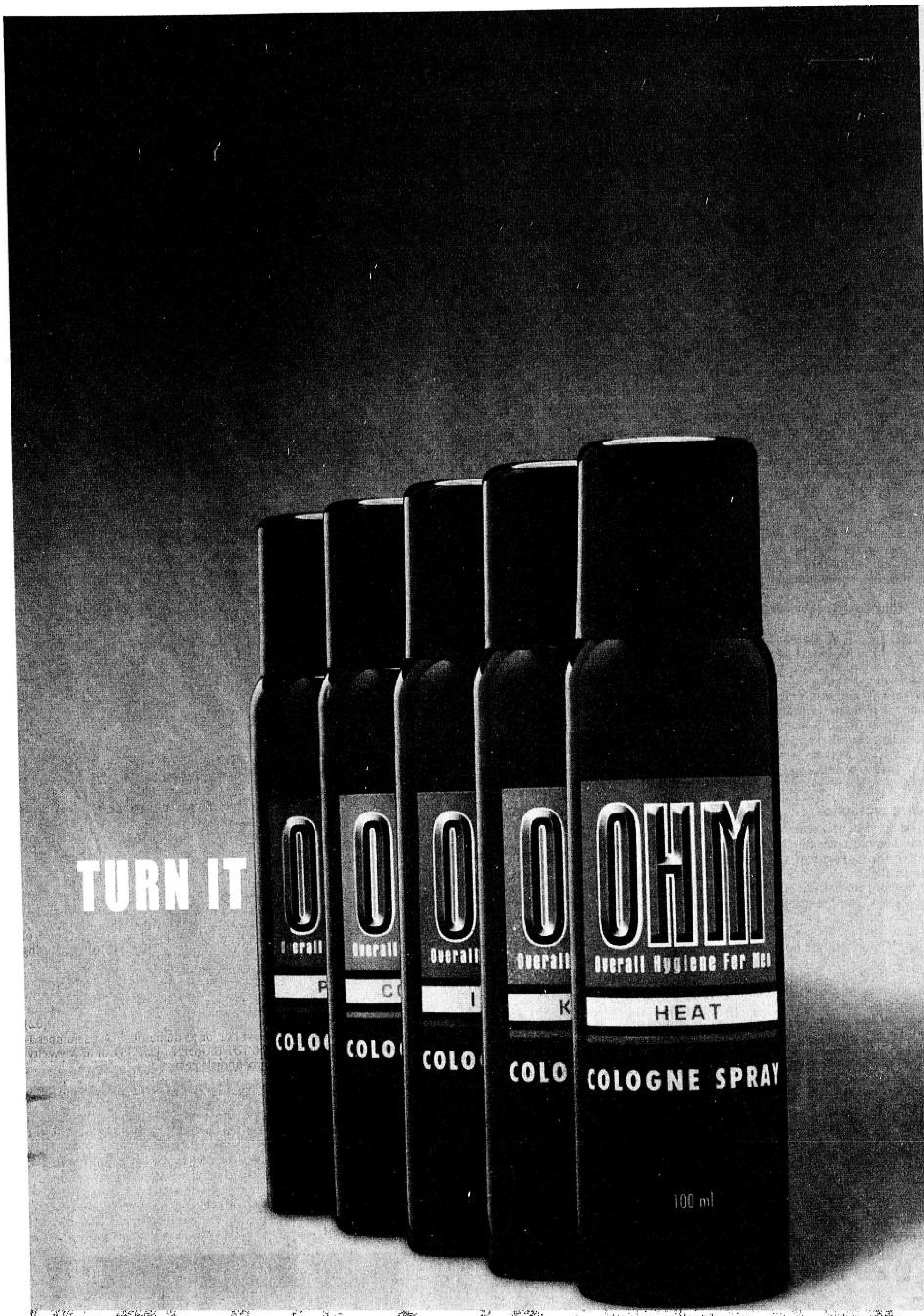
The feat capped all the achievements of The Marco Polo Davao in 2005 when this international luxury hotel and its various facilities received various prestigious awards.

These include the "Healthy Places Standard Awards" given by the Davao City Health Office last Dec. 15, 2005 at the NCCC Mall Atrium. The hotel's food and beverage outlets stood out with its excellent ratings. The Lotus Court is the only restaurant in Davao recognized with an Excellence Class A rating, followed by Cafe Marco with an Excellence Class B.

Similarly, the Fitness Center was awarded by the Philippine Marketing Association as the Most Outstanding Fitness Center in Davao City during the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards 2005.

The Marco Polo Davao also reaped the most number of medals and awards in the 5th Mindanao Culinary Festival held at the NCCC Convention Center last Sept. 9 to 11.

For this year, the hotel promises to continue this great tradition of excellence that The Marco Polo is known for.



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Children sing their hearts out

By Sharon Wendy A . Robas

CHOIR from Loboc is making a difference.

IT WAS A FITTING CONCERT TO start the New Year—and one whose proceeds benefited a lot of underprivileged children.

The "Light A Million Mornings" concert, staged last week at the CCP Main Theater, featured the renowned Loboc Children's Choir and the Pundaquit Virtuosi.

The concert was for the benefit of Tuloy sa Don Bosco Streetchildren Village, which houses hundreds of street kids *and* helps them make a difference in their lives.

First time

It was the first time I heard and saw the Loboc choir perform. Although I knew how famous they have become—they won three Namcya championships *and* numerous accolades in international competitions—it was not until that night that I realized how much they deserved the raves they've been getting.

Listening to the group's superb blending of voices is like listening to cherubs singing to create music that truly touches the heart and soul.

The Pundaquit Virtuosi, headed by Coke Bolipata, also delivered an outstanding performance. The group's renditions of memorable classical pieces had the audience spellbound.

Even before the show started, some Pundaquit members gave samples of their adept violin-playing at the CCP lobby, to the delight of the crowd.

The show's guest performers were famous violinists Bolipata, Julian and Eliza Quirit and singer Cris Villonco.

Exceptional

I marveled at the young singers and musicians' exceptional performance. But, then again, these children are not just talented—they're gifted!

It was also interesting to note the two groups' "humble" beginnings: Loboc started as a school choir, while Pundaquit consisted of kids from Bolipata's hometown in Zambales. Seeing them share their musical gifts is an amazing achievement worthy of emulation.

Inspiring

The show culminated with the two groups performing the inspiring song, "Light of a Million Mornings," with Villonco—with the participation of the children of Tuloy. How truly touching!

It is said that kids have a way of making adults feel the inner joy and serenity that we lose while growing up. That night, those gifted kids did just that!

Reassessment needed in Metro filmfest judging

By Nestor U. Torre

THREE YEARS AGO, I AGREED TO serve as a judge in the Metro filmfest awards competition. That turned out to be a positive experience, since the movies and film artists who emerged as winners in the festival that year were generally deserving.

As a result, the 2003 Metro filmfest awards were largely approved of by film people and the viewing public. In fact, some observers said 2003 was one of the most credible years as far as the filmfest awards were concerned.

Credible

So, the following year, I again agreed to be a filmfest juror. I thought that the festival's positive experience the year before would encourage the filmfest to push for credible awards again in 2004.

Alas, it didn't turn out that way. For one reason or other, the 2004 awards winners weren't as deserving as the 2003 awardees.

To me, the biggest disappointment was when "Panaghoy sa Suba" didn't win the best picture plum. It was so clearly superior to the other entries that its clinching only the *second* best picture award was unacceptable.

That was one of the factors that prompted me to decline the invitation to serve as judge in the 2005 festival competition. Now that the recently concluded filmfest's winners are being criticized by a number of film people, I realize that I did the right thing.

Standards of excellence

The credibility of film awards is important to me, because movie competition winners are supposed to set standards of excellence.

If undeserving productions or artists win awards, impressionable people, particularly the youth, may get wrong ideas about what constitutes excellent filmmaking in these parts.

Therefore, we must all do what we can to support, honor and reward our *truly* outstanding and deserving movie people, because what would the cinematic arts be without objective standards of quality?

This has become especially critical during this time, when so many filmmakers have compromised their own standards, for survival's sake.

At the same time, newer and more principled film artists are doing better work in the movies. If they lose out to better-connected artists, it could cause them to give up the fight to make superior movies despite the inhospitable film times.

Difficult question

So, how can the Metro filmfest awards competition recover the ground it's lost this year? Alas, *that's* a difficult question that deserves a complex answer:

First, the festival needs to go back to its original focus on quality, so that giving awards makes sense.

Second, the composition of the board of judges should be truly above-board. Third, our film artists should once again do their best work for the festival.

Fourth, the filmfest should not be dominated by only a few producers, and should open its doors to a democratic mix of all sorts of movie artists, including digital filmmakers.

Does the festival have the genuine resolve to reform itself in these and other ways? If the answer is yes, it can be given another chance. If it's in the negative, the filmfest had better get used to fending off brickbats for years to come.

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Reflections on a wonderful life

By Vitt Romero

LOLA Aurora with granchildren Virgil, Vincent Dante, Jordan, Lennard and Paulo Gabriel.

THE LIGHT FADES ON the last scene of Frank Capra's classic 1946 film "It's a Wonderful Life." I have seen this movie many times before, but it still evokes the same warm feelings of familial bonding.

Voyage

In the film, James Stewart plays George Bailey, a man who feels that his years have been for naught. He then goes through a dream-like voyage into a world without him in it.

In the end he realizes how much his goodness has done for others.

The movie is about a man who finds that a person's world, however small, affects him and is affected by him in ways that he can't imagine. It is true to life!

As a filmmaker, I see how my role in media can impact on other people's everyday lives. So, I always strive to stretch my imagination to remind them of the merits of maintaining happiness and romance in our routines.

THE ROMERO matriarch with Pops Fernandez and Martin Nievera.

Commitment

I extend the commitment to my nephews, because they are young filmmakers themselves.

"Tito *Direk*, there's something we want to show you!"

The eldest of my nephews had brought me a copy of their latest creative endeavor. With some of their distant cousins, the eldest of my mother Aurora Cruz-Romero's grandsons have edited and produced a short film they entitled "Lola's Wonderland Life."

They wanted to show it at our family's New Year reunion. Vincent Dante, Jordan, and Virgil wanted to know if their work was up to par, so I popped the video into the player, excited to view the new masterpiece by my young Frank Capras. And I was blown away by their sweeping tale of love, family, travel and music in *Mama's* life over the past 10 years!

The children's dedication to the short film was extraordinary. Their skill for storytelling was impeccable, compiling years' worth of photographs, videos, testimonials, narratives and mementos.

Accessible

With so many technological advances now in the world of filmmaking, they have learned how to shoot, edit and compose with their video cameras, telephones, and computer editing software.

I recalled that scene in "It's a Wonderful Life," with George Bailey being overwhelmed by the grand displays of compassion and esteem that his family and fellow townspeople showed him. And my heart suddenly felt like bursting, as I imagined my mother's reaction to this most touching gesture by the grandchildren she cherishes most.

The "flashbacks" had taken me to many instances in my mother's life that we all have shared. Many parts of the film are of the countless family reunions we had organized for her in the past decade.

And there are our musical artist friends whom they enjoy seeing most—Gary Valenciano, Martin Nievera, Janno Gibbs and Pops Fernandez are just some of the voices they've loved listening to in music videos and shows.

Guests

They've also seen how Mama's eyes light up as more great talents share their company with us: Celeste Legaspi, Mitch Valdes, Basil Valdez, Sylvia La Torre, Kuh Ledesma, Willie Nep, Dulce, Rico J, Puno, Freddie Aguilar, Pilita Corrales and The Company have been among the wonderful guests at some of our festivities to render *Mama's* favorite songs.

The children's short film includes a series of testimonials and narratives of their *Lola*, as she recounts anecdotes about her touching love story with their late grandfather, Dante Sr., with special mention of his romantic love letters and professions of undying love.

They refer to stories told to them by their parents of the many journeys *Lola* made across the globe. They love that she chatted with Tom Hanks over breakfast in London and had not known it, and laugh at my own tales about dragging her to meet foreign celebrities as she visited me at work abroad.

"Lola's Wonderful Life" is a testament to how deeply grateful and happy my nephews are with the love that surrounds them. They couldn't wait to give that love back—and now, they have!

We don't need to look for Frank Capras to present us with timeless pieces of art. We only have to search within our own circle of young filmmakers to recognize that the most beautiful and memorable creations come from the sincerest and most loving of hearts!

THE AUTHOR (foreground, center) with some members of the Cruz-Romero clan.

Leaving home

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A PARENT ONCE ASKED MY TEACHER, JAgad Guru Siddhaswarupananda Paramahamsa: "My 19-year-old son is leaving home. I feel disturbed because he's not very strong spiritually, and he might have a difficult time away from the spiritual environment we provide at home." To answer him, my teacher pointed out:

1. Children want to leave home because that is how the world works. Like birds, they want to leave their nest once their wings develop. Nature allows children to develop the desire for independence. Parents shouldn't try to keep their children longer than necessary for their own enjoyment or sense of security.

Spiritual life

2. There's no guarantee that children will likewise want to practice their parents' spiritual life. A parent can't predict what his child's choices will be when he gets older. All that a father or mother can do is to provide opportunities for his or her child to appreciate the existence of the Supreme Being.

When children leave home, the lessons they learn from their parents will leave favorable memories. In the future, when they realize the miseries of material life, they will remember the happiness and peace that a healthy spiritual life brings.

3. Parents can't make decisions for their kids. Loving is based on free will. It is voluntary.

4. Parents should keep their doors open for communication. Let your kids know that your love for them is unconditional. Be a medium for the compassion of the Supreme Person.

5. Parents always think of their child's wellbeing. They can't stop loving the child even if he doesn't want to listen. And, they pray for guidance and enlightenment.

VCF celebrates volunteerism

From page A2-1

Philippines.

Marquez felt that the music video put across the fellowship's core values very well. *Direk* Sockie notes, "Because the team shared the same motivation, there was more passion."

The talents included Ayen Munji-Laurel, Samantha Chavez-Que and Barbie Almabis. "Celebrate Life" was penned by Jose Villanueva III and arranged by Gilbert Espiridion. Luchie Huang did the vocals. "Everyone gave what he could," Laurel shares.

Values

In the music video, the values of life—family, devotion, commitment, friendship, charity—are integrated in seamless continuity.

Pastor Ariel calls it a story of faith. "When God wants something done, it will happen! We can see God's hand every step of the way. With Christ, life is an endless celebration!"

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SATURDAY Special

'Big Time' goes mainstream

By Nestor U. Torre

"BIG TIME," ONE OF OUR favorite 2005 Cinemalaya alternative filmfest entries, is finally going mainstream starting Jan. 25. We're quite sure that the digital movie will click with local viewers, particularly teenagers and young adults.

The film is about two smalltime crooks trying to hit it big. However, their carefully-planned kidnapping goes terribly wrong—with hilarious results!

Lead roles are played by Jamie Wilson, Winston Elizalde, Nor Domingo, Michael de Mesa and Joanne Miller.

Cautionary tale

When we judged all of the phases of the first Cinemalaya tilt, the storyline of "Big Time" caught our attention early on because of its amusingly cautionary tale about people who get out of their depth and are foiled by their own excessive ambitions.

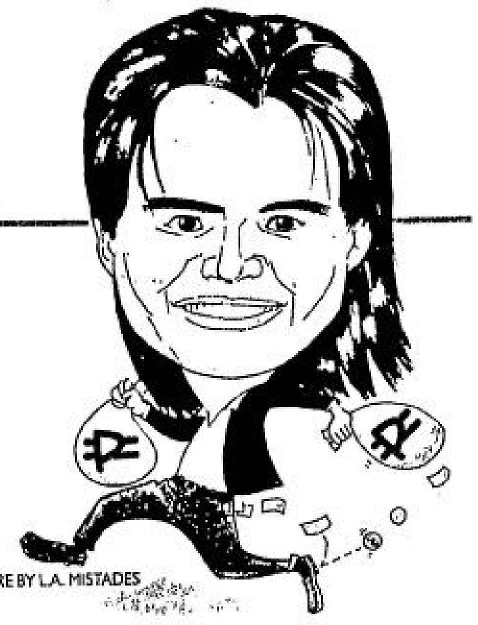
The project's screenplay was similarly outstanding because it plotted the story's development in an eventful way, and limned full-blown characters who were entertainingly varied and idiosyncratic.

Best of all, the finished film successfully transported the material's best suits to the big screen. Key in this area are the cast's antic performances, which raise the movie's level of nonslapstick absurdity to an even higher level.

"Big Time" was one of the hits at the Cinemalaya filmfest, which is why it is now going mainstream, to reach a wider audience.

Unlike other digital movies that have been converted to 35mm film, however, "Big Time"

'BIG TIME'/A3-2



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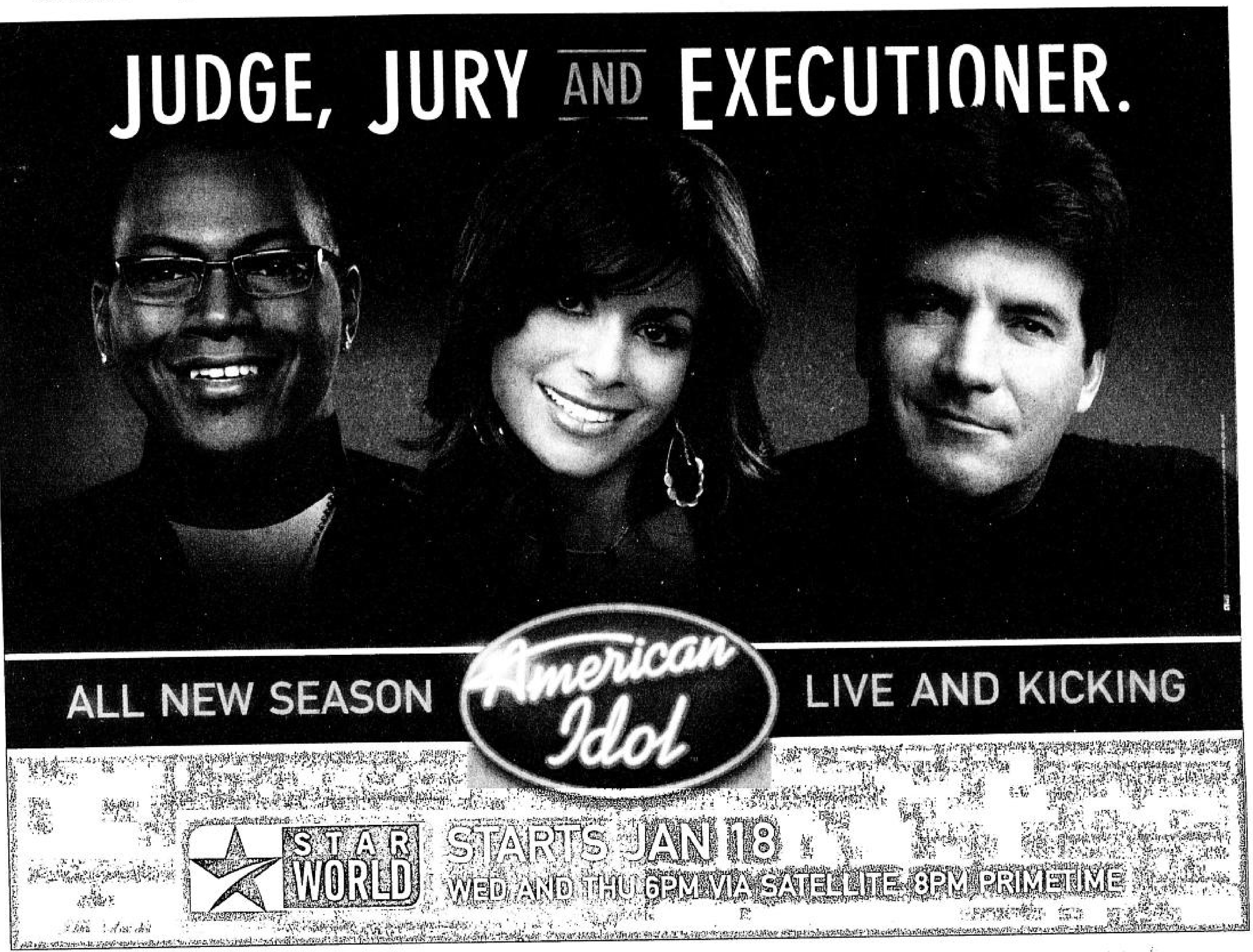

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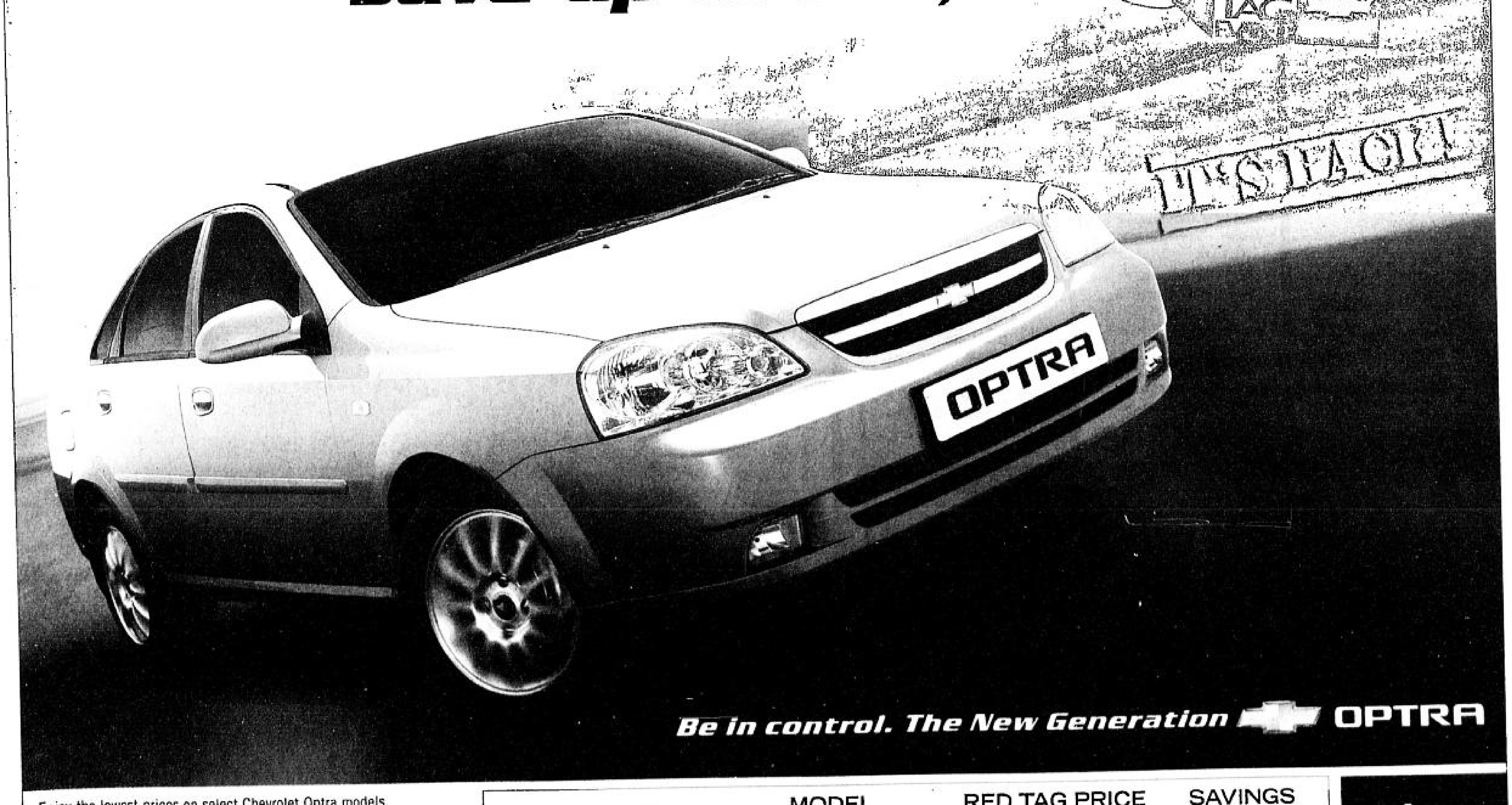

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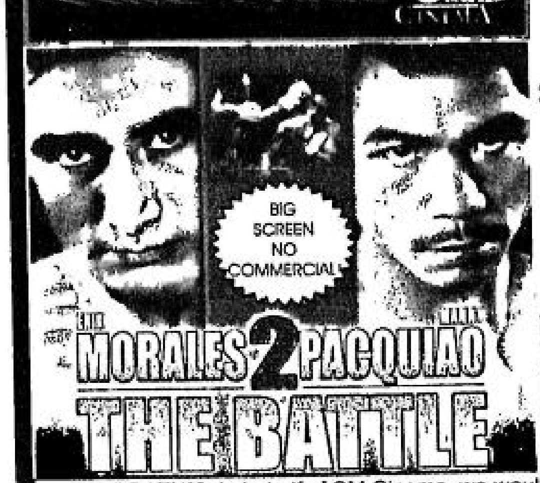

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ERRATUM: In behalf of SM Cinema, we would like to apologize for the misprint dated last January 12 & 13, 2006 of SM North Edsa's contact number. The correct number to call for reservation and inquiry is 929-54-52

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2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 11:00FS/12:25MF/03:20/06:15 08:30LFS/09:10LMF/11:30END
MEGAMALL
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 10:30FS/10:55MF/01:50/04:55 07:10LFS/07:40LMF/10:05END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 KING KONG 10:50FS/11:00MF/02:30/06:00 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/12:35END
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 10:20FS/10:30MF/01:15/04:00/06:45 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
3 BLUE MOON 10:50FS/11:00MF/01:05/03:12/05:18/07:24 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
MANILA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 11:50FS/12:20MF/03:05/06:00 08:25LFS/08:55LMF/11:20END

METRO MANILA

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1. KING KONG
2. BEAUTIFUL BOXERS
3. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
5. FAMILY STONE
6. AKO LEGAL WIFE
7. ST. ANGE
8. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
9. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10. RESERVED
11. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12. BLUE MOON

SM CITY STA. MESA
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3. KING KONG
4. BLUE MOON
5. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6. AKO LEGAL WIFE
7. FAMILY STONE
8. EXODUS
9. BEAUTIFUL BOXER
10. ST. ANGE

SM CITY BICUTAN
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4. KING KONG

SM VALENZUELA
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3. KING KONG
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1. BLUE MOON
2. ST. ANGE
3. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4. KING KONG
5. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
8. EXODUS
9. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10. FAMILY STONE
11. MULAWIN THE MOVIE
12. AKO LEGAL WIFE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3. RESERVED
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5. EXODUS
6. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7. FAMILY STONE
8. KING KONG
9. ST. ANGE
10. RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER [illegible]
1. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4. BEAUTIFUL BOXER
5. BLUE MOON
6. AKO LEGAL WIFE
7. EXODUS
8. KING KONG

SM CITY MANILA
1. KING KONG
2. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3. BEAUTIFUL BOXER
4. EXODUS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
6. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8. FAMILY STONE
9. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10. AKO LEGAL WIFE
11. BLUE MOON
12. ST. ANGE

SM SAN LAZARO
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. FAMILY STONE
3. KING KONG
4. BLUE MOON
5. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
6. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. AKO LEGAL WIFE
3. BLUE MOON
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5. ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. KING KONG
3. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM MOLINO
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3. KING KONG
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BACOOR
1. ST. ANGE
2. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5. KING KONG
6. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7. BLUE MOON
8. EXODUS

SM CITY MARILAO
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4. KING KONG

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1. THE CAHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. EXODUS
3. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4. ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM [illegible]
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3. KING KONG
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY [illegible]
1. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4. EXODUS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1. KING KONG
2. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3. BLUE MOON
4. AKO LEGAL WIFE
5. BEAUTIFUL BOXER
6. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY ILOILO
1. EXODUS
2. BLUE MOON
3. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
6. KING KONG
7. ENTENG KABISOTE 2
8. AKO LEGAL WIFE

SM CITY DAVAO
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. KING KONG
3. AKO LEGAL WIFE
4. EXODUS
5. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2. THE FOG
3. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

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2 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GP
3 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 11:00, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:00 GP
4 FAMILY STONE 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13

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③ FAMILY STONE MTRCB: PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
④ KING KONG MTRCB: PG-13 11:00, 2:40, 6:20, 10:00 LMF
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AKO, LEGAL WIFE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	FAMILY STONE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	NARNIA 11:50 / 1:10 / 2:40 / 4:00 5:30 / 6:50 / 8:20 / 9:40	NARNIA 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
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4	ST. ANGE 12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 7:50	5	EXODUS 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Restrained, soporific sound in 'Amarantine'

By Noelani Torre

ENYA. She is the second biggest-selling Irish artist in history.

IRISH CHANTEUSE Enya may not be a prolific recording artist, but then, she doesn't need to be. She has released only six albums in the course of 20 years and, more importantly, sold more than 65 million copies worldwide!

Enya, in fact, is the second biggest-selling Irish artist in history—topped only by U2!

This fact may come as a surprise. "Otherworldly" though it may seem, Enya's music is, universally appealing. Her pure, soaring voice, hushed melodies, and highly atmospheric tone have proven to be an irresistible combination for quite a number of people, most particularly those in need of de-stressing. You have to admit that after a hectic day, a bit of Enya can be bracing, indeed!

Distinctive

Five years after the release of the ultra-successful "Day Without Rain" (her biggest-selling album thus far), Enya brings us more of her distinctive brand of music in her seventh album, "Amarantine."

There's nothing particularly different in this album. Fans and more observant listeners, however, will be able to discern a few changes here and there.

There's the language, for one. Enya doesn't sing a word in her native Gaelic this time around. Instead, she expresses herself in English, Japanese, *and* a fictitious Roma Ryan-created language called Loxian!

Though the musical layering and the use of chanting choral back-ups are still very much present, you can feel a more restrained hand at the helm. The atmosphere in "Amarantine" isn't quite as heavily infused with drama as her earlier releases. Things are quieter, and this makes you notice Enya's undeniably lovely voice more.

Unfortunately, it also has the tendency to make you feel soporific, lethargic, and just plain spaced-out. Relaxation is good—but, brain death isn't!

Vitality

There are some tracks that have non-sleep-inducing effects. In "The River Sings," along with "Water Shows the Hidden Heart" and "Long, Long Journey," there's some sort of Celtic mouth music going on that injects some badly needed vitality into the album.

Unfortunately, three songs out of 13 isn't a particularly impressive number. Still, the rest of the lot is very much Enya, and those who've waited five years for "Amarantine" will be glad to know that.

'Big Time'. . .

From page A3-1

has opted to remain digital, and will be screened in some 10 digitally-equipped SM theaters.

Gambit

We have been plugging for this sort of mainstream release strategy for digital films, because it saves the producer the P800,000-plus needed to convert digital to celluloid. So, we hope that "Big Time's" gambit succeeds and the film turns out to be a hit.

We also hope that the movie's big-screen release will make stars out of its deserving young leads, especially Jamie Wilson and Joanne Miller, whose performances and charisma are exceptional.

To help make all of these good things happen, make it a point to catch "Big Time" when it opens on the SM cinema circuit.

Incentive

For further incentive, please be informed that the movie won best screenplay and best sound/ musical score honors at the Cinemalaya awards, and has been graded "A" by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

Fewer than 10 movies have gotten an "A" since the CEB started operating, so *that's* a big endorsement, indeed!

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2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

3 THE FAMILY STONE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

4 The Chronicles of NARNIA
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

6 KING KONG
11:30 3:00 6:30 10:00

7 EXODUS 12:40 3:00
ENTENG KABISOTE 2 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 SAINT ANGE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 AKO LEGAL WIFE 12:20 2:45
BLUE MOON 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA 11:30 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50

2 AKO LEGAL WIFE 12:00 2:00 4:00
BLUE MOON 6:15 8:05 10:00

3 THE FAMILY STONE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:40

5 KING KONG
11:20 2:50 6:20 9:50

6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

7 SAINT. ANGE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:20

2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:15

4 KING KONG
1:35 5:10 9:00

5 SAINT. ANGE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 BLUE MOON
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 The Chronicles of NARNIA
11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00

8 THE FAMILY STONE
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 BLUE MOON
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 EXODUS
5 KING KONG
6 The Chronicles of NARNIA
7 THE FAMILY STONE
8 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 MULAWIN
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
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3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 BLUE MOON
4 KING KONG
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 KING KONG
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 BLUE MOON

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 MULAWIN the MOVIE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 The Chronicles of NARNIA
5 The Chronicles of NARNIA

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 KING KONG
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 KING KONG
3 SAINT ANGE
4 The Chronicles of NARNIA
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 THE FAMILY STONE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 BLUE MOON
4 KING KONG
5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
6 The Chronicles of NARNIA

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 KING KONG
6 BLUE MOON

ILOILO (033) 338-8070

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL
3 EXODUS
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

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G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 ST. ANGE

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 FAMILY STONE
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED SEATS
4 KING KONG
5 THE BEAUTIFUL BOXER
6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7 AKO LEGAL WIFE

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED SEATS
2 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED SEATS
3 KING KONG GUARANTEED SEATS
4 FAMILY STONE GUARANTEED SEATS
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US GUARANTEED SEATS

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1 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 KING KONG
5 FAMILY STONE

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Ina Feleo's time to shine has come

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE THRILLED TO LEARN THAT INA Feleo, Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen's 20-year-old daughter, is playing Juliet in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," now being performed at the AFP Theater. Yam Yuzon plays Romeo, and Ricky Abad directs.

We've known Ina since she was a tot, and have seen her grow up into a gifted actress and fine person.

Missions

Early on, we had a unique experience with her when we went with Johnny and Laurice on some of their religious missions to different parts of the country.

Ina and her older sister Ana joined their parents on their religious sorties, and became spiritual themselves. During some religious services, the girls helped minister to the droves of people in attendance.

In fact, Ina and Ana themselves would sometimes "slay" us "in the spirit." Imagine, a big lug like us, spiritually "felled" by two little girls?!

As they grew older, Ana studied at the UP College of Music, became a gifted singer, and performed in some of our musicals. For her part, Ina got so interested in ice-skating that she became a champion, and even took up more studies in the sport in the States.

Later, TV beckoned, and Ina acted in a soap opera. Then, she joined the Bayanihan Dance Company, and performed in many of its shows, both here and abroad. .

All this while, we've been urging Laurice to cast her daughter in one of her productions. We even suggested Ina for the title role in "Santa-Santita," but Laurice cast Angelica Panganiban, instead.

FELEO. Playing Juliet should launch her acting career in a major way.

Last year, we finally got our wish to see Ina acting on the big screen, when she was cast as the Blessed Virgin Mary in the "Birhen ng Manaoag" movie. Sadly, however, she was used poorly in the film, and thus didn't make a strong impression.

Impact

That's why we're happy that Ina is playing Juliet. Clearly, she can't but make an impact in the attention-calling role, and it should launch her acting career in a major way.

Of course, Ina has to put up with the usual distractions, like people comparing her to her mother, who's one of our best stage-TV-film actresses, aside from being a director and film industry leader of note.

Some people will also sniff that, due to her genes and her parents' "connections," Ina is having an easy time of it in her nascent acting career.

Naysayers

Sorry to disappoint the naysayers, but Ina *auditioned* for the role of Juliet, and won it over many other aspirants—on her own merits!

As for being unfairly compared to her mother, Ina should just ignore the irrelevant comparisons, and focus on giving *her* personal best to the plum role, period. And, not to worry: She should be more than up to the thrilling challenge!

Sunday treat

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

SUNDAYS ARE A treat for me. First, the soul gets fed at Sunday service, then a dining adventure follows.

Last week was particularly special. We got an invitation from Pastor Peter and his wife, Deonna. Our destination: Masters Wok at the Podium.

Masters Wok is at the fifth floor of the Podium on ADB ave. in Mandaluyong. It is a brightly-lit Chinese restaurant that serves one of the best-tasting cuisines in Manila.

Difference

Pastor Peter loves to eat. Our difference? He always likes to eat healthy, while I sometimes don't. Since he was the host, he did all the ordering.

We had seafood spinach soup, braised minced pork bean curd, Yang Chow fried rice, sweet and sour fish fillet, Masters Wok special hot pot, steamed *lapu-lapu* soy sauce, and Hong Kong roast duck.

We started with the roast duck. It was crunchy, had hardly any bones, and its plum sauce tasted exactly like what is served in Hong Kong. The seafood spinach soup was totally new to me—and I loved it!

The braised minced pork bean curd, while not exceptional, was also good. And I loved the Yang Chow fried rice: It was loose, bright yellow, hardly oily, and had the most simple but authentic-tasting flavor.

Winner

Another winner was the sweet and sour fish fillet. I loved the boneless fish with a nice crunch and sauce.

But, I will not forget the Masters Wok special hot pot. It had tons of ingredients—a perfectly-made sauce, morsels of chicken, mushrooms and strands of corn hair. We ended with chilled watermelons, mangoes and melons. *Sarap!*

Call Masters Wok at 633-2406, or 0917 534-6655.

Happy eating!

Email sandydaza@shaw.ca

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FAMILY STONE PG13 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 2:00,5:00,8:00	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 12:00,3:00,6:00,9:00
DON'T GIVE UP ON US PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	KING KONG PG13 2:40,6:20,10:00	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10

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Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
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2 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP
3 (DOLBY) FAMILY STONE PG13
4 (DOLBY) KING KONG PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) BLUE MOON
2 (SDDS) KING KONG
3 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 GOLD (DTS) FAMILY STONE
5 GOLD THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
6 GOLD THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7 GOLD (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 (DOLBY STEREO) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
9 (DOLBY STEREO) ENTENG KABISOTE -2
10 (DOLBY STEREO) AKO LEGAL WIFE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) KING KONG
2 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DOLBY) FAMILY STONE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 KING KONG
2 (DTS) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 EXODUS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
1 EXODUS
2 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) KING KONG

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) EXODUS
4 (DTS) KING KONG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 KING KONG
2 MULAWIN

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
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2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 KING KONG

Blue Wave MALL UNION
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
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2 (DOLBY) KING KONG
3 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
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4 EXODUS
5 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) NARNIA
5 KING KONG

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4 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

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(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
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3 KING KONG
4 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

Masagana CINEMA
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2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 KING KONG

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 KING KONG
2 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3026
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) EXODUS
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DTS EX) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) KING KONG
2 EXODUS
3 ENTENG KABISOTE -2
4 (DTS) TERRORIST HUNTER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) KING KONG
2 EXODUS
3 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE -2

Fiesta World Mall
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3 KUTOB
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KING KONG

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4 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

Centre Plaza Cinema
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Berma Cinema
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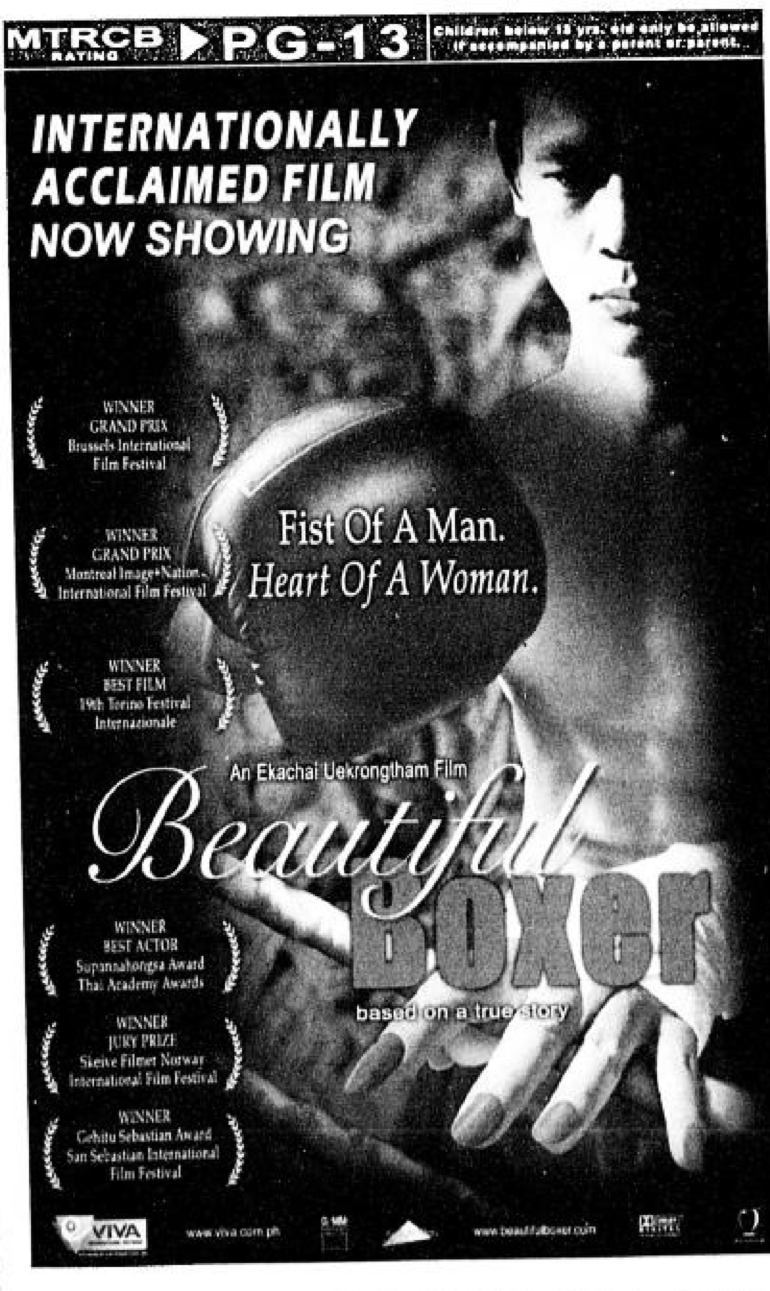
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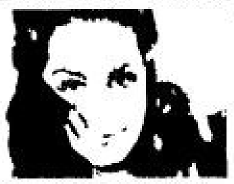


NEWMAR. Original Catwoman.

SHOULD YOU EVER PLAY THE MOVIE TRIvia game, here's an intriguing question you can field to your group: "Who is Julie Newmar?"

"Julie who?," the young and uninformed may query—but, ask any movie fan of the '50s and '60s, and he will quickly identify Newmar as the original Catwoman on "Batman," the television series starring Adam West.

Otherwise, Ms Newmar is remembered as one of the most stunning and statuesque actresses of the '60s. Otherwise, however, she was merely decorative in most films assigned to her.

Fine dancer

Since Newmar was a fine dancer, she landed a featured role in "Band Wagon." Thereafter, she was cast as the most gorgeous of Jane Powell's abducted sisters in the high-energy musical, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

Despite her impressive assets, Julie was a serious performer who trained not only as a dancer but as an actress, as well. She proved her worth by winning Broadway's Tony Award for her performance in "The Marriage-Go-Round," and then starred in its film version in 1960.

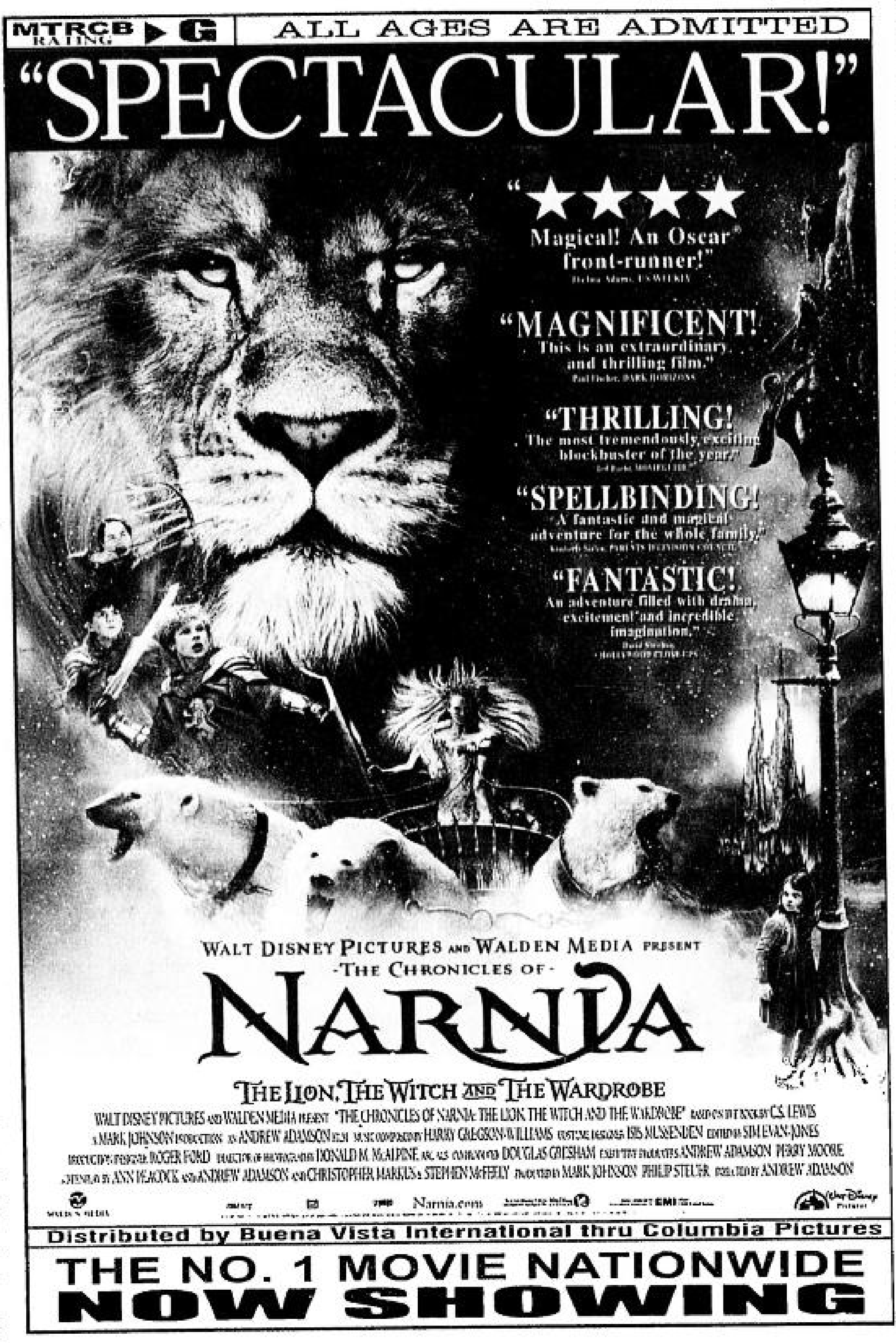
Newmar returned to Broadway as Stupefyin' Jones in the wacky musical, "Lil Abner." She had the same paralyzing effect on the audience when she appeared in the film version soon after.

Competition

Women considered her unfair competition because she seemed to have too much of everything—she was a Nordic amazon with a beautiful face, a curvaceous body to die for, plus a surplus of seductive charm! Despite her obvious advantages, however, producers had difficulty finding proper roles for her.

Dancer-choreographer Julie Borromeo, Manila's foremost jazz dancing exponent in the '50s and '60s,

JULIE/ A3-6



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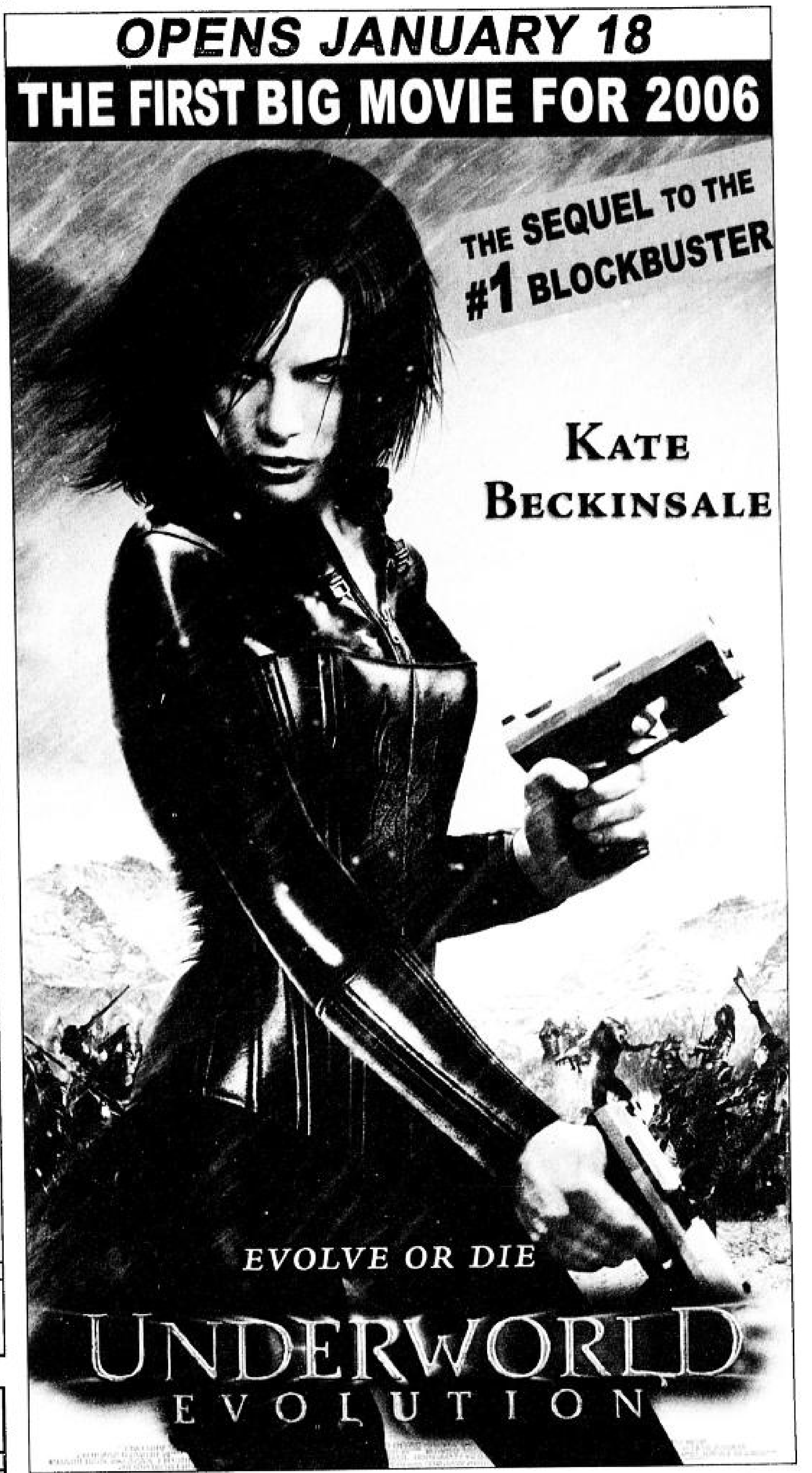

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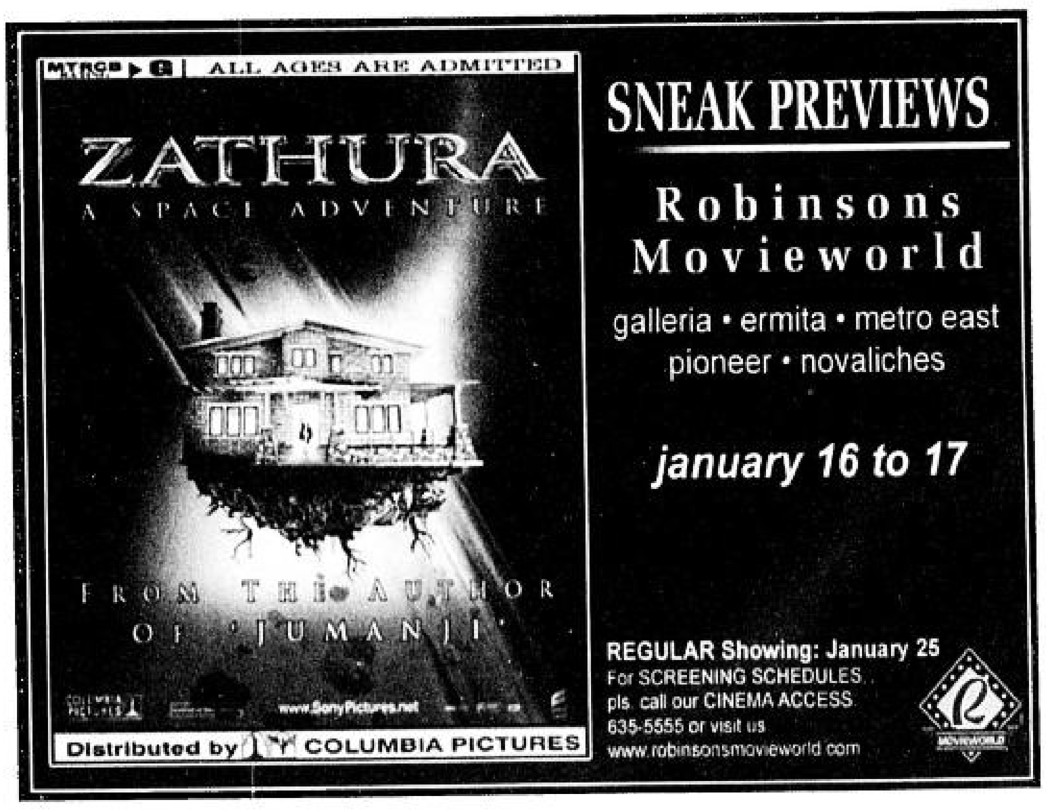

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IN THEATERS JANUARY 18

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FROM ACADEMY AWARD® WINNING Director PETER JACKSON
5th HIT WEEK!
BACK IN THEATERS DUE TO INSISTENT PUBLIC DEMAND!!!
KING KONG IS A GIGANTIC ACHIEVEMENT, HANDS DOWN THE BIGGEST SPECTACLE OF THE YEAR!!!
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NAOMI WATTS JACK BLACK ADRIEN BRODY
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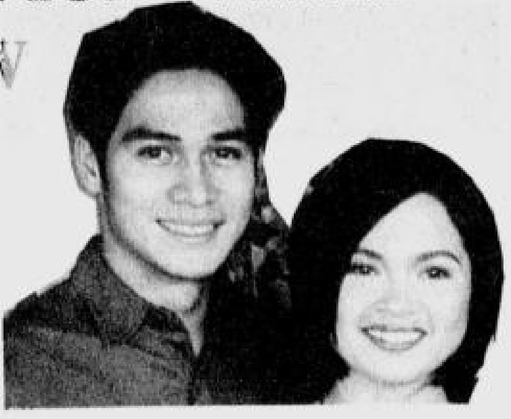
Solar Entertainment Corporation

Judy Ann, Piolo thrill fans anew

By Rito P. Asilo

"Don't Give Up On Us"

D: Joyce Bernal
S: Judy Ann Santos, Piolo Pascual, Hilda Koronel, Tommy Abuel


PASCUAL AND SANTOS. More confident.

NOW SHOWING

JOYCE BERNAL RETURNS TO WINNING romcom form in Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual's "reunion" movie—well, almost.

When headstrong, ambitious ad executive, Abby (Santos), rushes to Baguio to look for her brother's runaway fiancée, she meets carefree, reluctant singer, Vince (Pascual), and drags him further up north—from Banawe to Sagada—to accomplish her mission. But, instead of finding a resolution to her brother's soured relationship, she ends up finding something else: Love.

Abby and Vince are polar opposites, but the undeniable attraction is there. However, when the reality of Abby's city-girl life sinks into the duo's consciousness, the heady scent of romance, the glorious vistas and the cool, cuddle-conducive weather start to lose their magic—or, do they?

After some unfortunate missteps, Bernal is back on track—with a more mature and confident Judy Ann and Piolo in tow. The charismatic pair fires up a considerable amount of chemistry and movie magic as they banter, bicker, flirt and kiss.

Pascual, with his Brad Pitt-like tresses, is dreamy and efficient, and is even more charming to behold when he lets himself loose. But, it's Santos who deftly demonstrates how much she's grown as an actress on point of versatility—by leaps and bounds! She is believable as a tough career woman. And she is also as hilarious as she is endearing in comic scenes—you should see her when she's drunk!

Sparks fly from beginning to end, but the sparkle dims toward the end of the film's awkward and manipulative final third act.

Bernal's storytelling gifts—with the help of Santos, Pascual, Hilda Koronel and Tommy Abuel (whom we have sorely missed on the big screen for sometime now)—are on full display here: The filmmaker has the uncanny ability to put hilarious and heartwarming spins on mundane situations. She knows how to convey humor, sadness and longing.

Indeed, in her films—the well-realized ones, at least—we see the hopeless romantic in her, especially in scenes that, despite their overtly sad tone, still leave some glimmer of hope for the brokenhearted.

Numbing attention to detail

By Noelani Torre

FOR THOSE WHO'VE HEARD THAT Disney's "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is "'The Passion' for kids," be not afraid. Your children will not leave this movie feeling shell-shocked and/or sobbing their hearts out—and neither will you.

Yes, it *is*, at heart, a Christian allegory, but this means that things here are symbolic, *not* literal.

Series

"Narnia" is based on the well-loved book—one in a series of seven—by C.S. Lewis, which was first published more than 50 years ago. The book itself, with its humor, strong characters, and flights of fantasy that are nevertheless grounded in reality, is an enthralling read. But, it is *not* the book or its New Testament foundations that we're looking at here.

In fact, if you want to make movie comparisons, the right film to put side by side with "Narnia" isn't Mel Gibson's, but the "Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings" franchises. How then does "Narnia" fare in comparison? Not too badly, but not too well, either!

Directed by "Shrek's" Andrew Adamson, "Narnia" is visually lavish, and is blessed with a talented cast. It is faithful to the book, but it is also strangely two-dimensional, flat, and a few thrills shy of a truly exciting cinematic experience.

The story itself can hardly be improved upon. It is World War II and, to keep them safe from the blitz, the Pevensie children—Peter (William Moseley), Susan (Anna Popplewell), Edmund (Skandar Keynes), and Lucy (Georgie Henley)—are sent to the house of an eccentric professor (Jim Broadbent) in the country.

Gateway

Soon, the youngest (Lucy) discovers an old wardrobe, which turns out to be the gateway to a magical land called Narnia, where the evil White Witch (Tilda Swinton) holds sway.

The story isn't the problem, it's the execution. Things look good at first, especially when Lucy first discovers Narnia. But, Adamson doesn't capitalize on this burgeoning sense of wonderment. The rest of the movie feels like a suspension of sorts—like being on the brink of something marvelous, but never taking the plunge.

In the end, it is the numbing attention to detail that drags the film down. With all the visual elements to play around with, the filmmakers forgot the most important point—making the audience care!

HENLEY, KEYNES, POPPLEWELL AND MOSELEY. "Narnia's" talented quartet.

Julie, Tina . . .

From page A3-5

adds a footnote: She recalls that she was in the same dance class as Newmar in Manhattan. Newmar was so tall that she used to cover the studio's mirror that our Julie needed to check if her moves were right.

Another stunner in "Lil Abner" was Tina Louise, who burst on the screen as the seductive Griselda in the much-publicized film adaptation of Caldwell's "God's Little Acre."

Impressive

Nevertheless, despite the Actors' Studio training and that impressive debut, she was similarly relegated to decorative roles in "The Hangman" and "The Warrior Empress," until she was shipwrecked a decade later on "Gilligan's Island." There, she enjoyed well-deserved stellar television credit.

Another stunner was brunette Elaine Stewart. The tall and very beautiful Elaine made a memorable entrance on impressive marble steps in "The Bad and The Beautiful." Stewart had just snatched Kirk Douglas from Lana Turner, no less. So, talk about an impressive debut!

Elaine was New York's top photographic model, and was endowed with perfectly classical features—and a svelte body, to boot!

However, she played mostly decorative roles in "Take The High Ground" with Richard Widmark, and "The Tales of Hajji Baba."

'Javadelic'

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

ARTIST JUDY RAZON IS EXHIBITING HER digital travel photographs. Married to musician Bo Razon, she has traveled to exotic countries, where she found her subjects.

Lifestyle show

She is the writer and director of the long-running lifestyle show, "Tahanang Pinoy," on ABC 5, and currently helms "Men's Room" on Studio 23.

In the last few years, Judy photographed extraordinary subjects in places like Paris, Rome, Milan, Tuscany, Thailand and Cambodia. She combines her love for brewed coffee and visual images in her latest endeavor.

In her current exhibit, "Javadelic," she collaborates with Digo Ricio, an arts and crafts teacher for kids at the Ateneo de Manila.

"Javadelic" is on display at the Penguin Café and runs until Feb. 12.

The Penguin Café is at 604 Remedios St., corner J. Bocobo, Malate in Manila.

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4: Narnia
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2: Dont Give Up On Us
3: King Kong
4: Narnia

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DENNIS TRILLO MALL TOUR at METROPOLIS ALABANG on JAN 15 SUNDAY 4pm
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NEW KTV ROOMS at MARK'S KTV METROPOLIS & STARMALL LAS PINAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, January 14, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance? The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC Iba Tayo!

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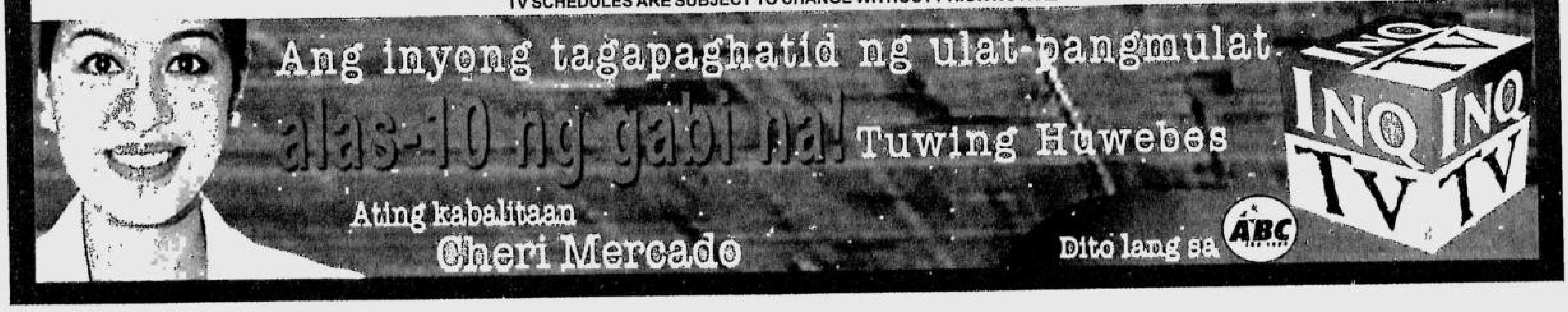
For more TV schedules: Visit www.ClickTheCity.com & wap.clickthecity.com
Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. P2.50 SMS cost.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Art Is-Kool	KNN	Anime Ring Kasho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali	Quizon Avenue	Blind Item		ABCinema					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Ngiinig		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only			Magandang Gabi Bayan		TV Patrol World		Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Half Past Dead				Fear Factor		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	The 4400 (Season 2)		Sports Disaster IV		Las Vegas		House		The World's Wildest Commercials	The World's Wildest Commercials
Cartoon Network		Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Tom & Jerry Show		Codename Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teen Titans	Samurai Jack	The Quest For Camelot			Dexter's Laboratory	Crush Gear Nitro	The Gransazers	Superman The Animated Series	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Space Ghost Coast to Coast
Cinema One	Kung Ako Na Lang Sana				Aishete Imasu				My Movie				Ngayon At Kailan Man				Shutter		
Cinemax				Pink Cadillac				The Boys & Girl From County Clare			Cabin Fever			And Justice For All				Sniper 3	
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	International Correspondents	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Next@CNN	World News	Design 360	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Discovery Channel				Unsolved History		Power Zone				Zero Hour		The New Adventures Of The Lone Ranger		Crime Stories		True Horror		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie		Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
ETC	Complete Savages	Commited	Good Morning Miami	Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Saturday Night Live		The O.C. 2		Love Shack		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss? II	Who's The Boss? II	Silent Night				Run the Wild Fields (5:20 PM)			Jane Doe Vanishing Act				Arthur Hailey's Detective					
HBO			Dragonheart			Looney Tunes: Back In Action				Hollywood Homicide				The Stepford Wives			Rome Ep 09. Utica		Fear
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		The Basketball Show		Nuts	Men of Power	Bitag		Philippine Sabong Sports			
JackTV	X-Men Evolution	Jiu	Batman	X-Play	Cinematech	Bottomline		Raw				Family Guy	Banzai	Mad TV		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	El Extra Ultimate H'wood Blonde		Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Hanging Out	MTV Hits	MTV Hits	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	MTV Live		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		The Astounding World		Malaysia Specials	Year Of Hamster	Wild Rio		Creature Feature		Wow!		The Astounding World		Amazon Claws		Big Bite Nite		Auto Focus	
NBN				Corporate Boards League		Concert at the Park		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN					
Nickelodeon	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Catscratch	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Dark Oracle	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Isang Bala, Isang Buhay				Daddy Na Si Chito				Nakagapos Na Puso				Kakampi Ko Ang Diyos			MINT (Music Interactive)	Motown Greatest Hits Concert
Qtv		3R	Kiddy Grade	Candies		Fam Jam		Fans Kita		Ayll Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Money Talk	
RPN 9		Open Line	Pinoy Sports Idol	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigations		CSI: Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse					
SBN 21				Friends Again		Shepherds Voice		Sony Bmg Video		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Bmg Video			
Solar Sports		Watson's Champions Chall. Day3								IBF China Open Finals Women's Doubles		NBA Jam	GWS Ep.54-2005	NBA Game Wizards @ Pacers					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				Pac 10 TBD															
Star Movies			A Guy Thing (3:40PM)				Dot The I (5:25 PM)			28 Days Later				The Village				Commando (10:50PM)	
Star World		The Collector (Series 3)		Miami Vice		Wild Card		John Doe		The Chronicles News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters (Series 2)		Enterprise		The Kumars At No. 42	Less Than Perfect
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Pinoy Big Brother		Gilmore Girls (7:50PM)	Jack & Bobby (8:40PM)		Studio 23 Present				

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2006
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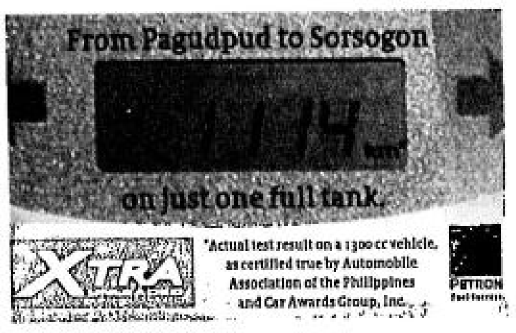
From Pagudpud to Sorsogon on just one full tank.
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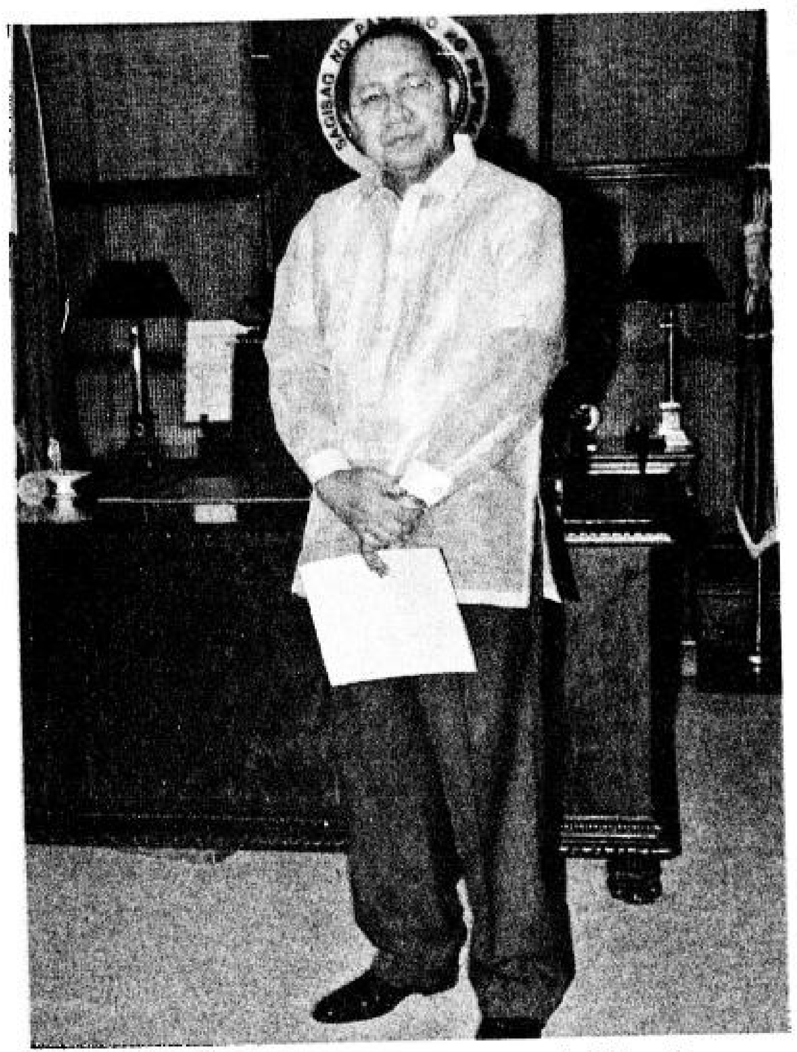
Agri growth falls short of '05 target


JOSE Mario C. Buñag waits for President Arroyo in Malacañang Friday to take his oath as BIR chief, officially making him the country's "Mr. Taxman." Buñag has drafted his own 10-point agenda for more efficient tax collection services.

But gov't sees farm sector expanding by 4% this year

By Christine A. Gaylican

GROWTH OF THE AGRICULTURE sector last year fell short of the official target at 2.24 percent due to droughts that damaged major crops in the first half, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

But the farm sector, which accounts for a fifth of the country's gross domestic product, was expected to shake off the effects of last year's El Niño dry weather pattern and grow by 4-4.5 percent this year, it said.

In 2004, agricultural output grew 5.2 percent.

"Agriculture managed to surpass its 2004 record performance ... despite the mild El Niño that persisted in the first quarter of 2005," Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban told reporters, adding the sector also took a beating in the rainy season in the third quarter.

For the fourth quarter of last year, agricultural output was 3.3 percent higher than a year earlier.

The government had said it expected farm sector growth of at least 3 percent in 2005.

Last year's GDP growth was now seen at 5.1 percent at best, below the target of 5.3 percent. The government will announce 2005 GDP data on Jan. 30.

Production of rice, the country's staple food, grew by only 0.73 percent to 14.6 million tons in 2005 from the previous year.

Corn output fell 2.95 percent to 5.3 million tons, hurt by the dry spell that cut production in the first half and flooding due to typhoons in the second half.

The Philippines, one of the world's top rice importers in 2005, plans to ship in at least a million tons this year.

Gregorio Tan, administrator of the National Food Authority, said on Thursday the rice imports this year were unlikely to exceed the 1.8 million tons the Philippines bought in 2005.

Aside from rice and corn, major Philippine crops include coconuts and coconut products, sugar, tropical fruit, coffee and tobacco.

Panganiban said that for 2006, the agency was targeting to double the sector's growth and that government economic managers were considering to pump-prime the agriculture sector with the release of P3.2 billion in funding in the first quarter.

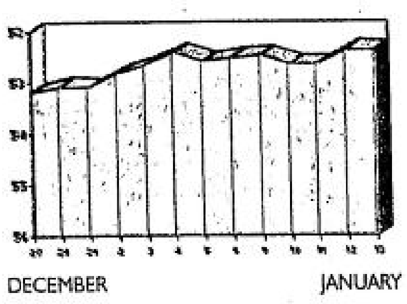
"We are proposing that in spite of a re-enacted budget for this year we would need to front-load the required budget for irrigation and inputs necessary to create a recovery for the agriculture sector this year," said Panganiban.

He noted that some P2.7 billion was need-

FARM/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.395 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 13, 2006

¥ 114.72 = $ 1

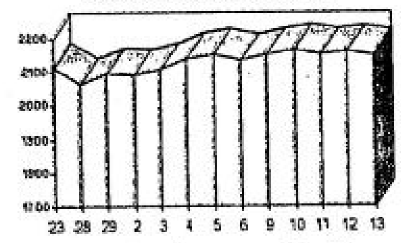
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 13, 2006

GOLD: $545.70-546.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 13, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares down 0.5% on political concerns

SHARES declined yesterday as investors chose to wait for fresh political developments ahead of the ruling party's weekend caucus to discuss constitutional changes.

Dealers said investors also took profits following losses overnight on Wall Street and that the market looked overbought following its recent rise to a 10-month high, leaving stocks susceptible to profit-taking.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index lost 10.38 points, or 0.5 percent, at 2,148.27, after rising 0.4 percent Thursday. Volume was 947.12 million shares worth P1.039 billion.

Losers just led gains 40 to 39, with 43 stocks unchanged.

SHARES/ B2

JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2005

Remittances jump 27% to $9.7B

By Doris C. Dumlao

REMITTANCES FROM OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers coursed through banks went up by 27 percent in the 11 months to November last year to $9.7 billion from a year ago, fueling the peso's strong ascent against the dollar.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that for the month of November alone, OFW inflows increased by 21.8 percent to $895 million.

The 11-month remittance level was only $1 billion short of the BSP's $10.7-billion projection for the whole of 2005.

Supported by strong remittances from OFWs and foreign investments, the peso appreciated by about 6 percent against the dollar last year.

"The sustained rise in remittances during the period may be attributed to the continuing demand for Filipino workers," Tetangco said.

OFW remittances are now regarded as a significant economic indicator in the Philippines as such inflows are lifting households out of poverty by boosting funds for education, health and entrepreneurship.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that the total number of deployed workers during the 11-month period increased by 3.9 percent to 900,639 from 867,125 a year ago.

"The continued preference for Filipino sea-based and higher paid, land-based workers—such as production, professional and service staff—helped support the level of remittances during the 11-month period," Tetangco said.

Land-based workers comprised almost three-fourths of deployed workers at 674,365 while sea-based workers totaled 226,274.

By country of destination, most of the Filipino workers are deployed in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Japan, the United Arab Emirates and Taiwan.

"Moreover, the consistent effort by financial institutions to direct remittances through the

REMITTANCES/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

10 firms expected to list in '06 /B2

Transco bent on completing Mindanao facility /B3

DOJ dismisses complaints against CAP, execs

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS junked the criminal complaints filed against cash-strapped pre-need firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) and cleared it of possible violation of securities laws.

It also dismissed the SEC's complaint against CAP officials Alejandro Roces, Enrique Sobrepeña, James Thomson, Coronado Muñasque, Juan Flavier, Ernesto Espaldon, Robert John Sobrepeña, Gillian Akiko Thomson, Eusebio Tangco and Rafael Evangelista for lack of evidence.

In a Dec. 2 order, the DOJ said it found "no probable cause" sufficient to charge CAP for alleged violations of the Securities Regulation Code based on a complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The order, which was released yesterday, was penned by DOJ first assistant provincial prosecutor

DOJ/ B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

List of approved new tax measures FY 2006 (in million pesos)

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES	47
1. Restructuring of the Excise tax on Automobiles	90
2. Rationalization of Documentary Stamp Tax	33
3. Indexation of Sin Products	54
4. New Value Added Tax Law (RA 9337)	82,670
ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES	9,836
1. Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)	6,952
2. Bureau of Customs (BOC)	3,884
OTHER OFFICES	2,829
NON TAX	6,826
1. Increase in fees and charges	5,251
2. Increase in collection of dividends and guarantee fees	1,575
TOTAL	**P123,038**

Source: Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing 2006

THE BULK of the government's estimated P123 billion revenues from the newly approved tax measures would come from the expanded value-added tax (P82.6 billion). This is followed by the indexation of existing taxes on sin products like cigarettes using compounded inflation (P15.2 billion) and the improvements in the tax collection systems of BIR and BOC.

Chona Galang, PDI Research

Finance wants LGU fund allocation scheme changed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance wants Congress to pass a bill that will restructure the internal revenue allotment (IRA) given to local government units (LGUs), hoping the move would prompt them to maximize their revenue-raising capabilities and participate in the national government's agenda of improving the fiscal climate.

"(The current structure of the IRA) does not encourage LGUs to generate additional revenues to support additional expenditures. Thus, it does not have any fiscal stimulation effect on local finance on all levels of local governments," the DOF said in a paper on its legislative proposals for 2006.

Currently, in compliance with the Local Government Code, 40 percent of the national government's internal revenue collections are allocated for LGUs. Of the amount, 23 percent goes to provinces, 34 percent to municipalities, 23 percent to cities, and 20 percent to barangays.

The DOF said the IRA should be rationalized in such a way that more allotments be given to LGUs that really lack resources, and make able ones lessen their financial dependence on the national government.

The proposal to adjust the IRA has been raised since 2004, when the administration admitted that the national government was suffering from a serious fiscal problem characterized by huge deficits and debts that seemed to be unamanagable then.

Rep. Joey Salceda even suggested that the government declare a "state of fiscal crisis" so it could invoke a provision in the Code allowing it to restructure the IRA in the event the fiscal problem reached unmanageable levels. The DOF, however, bucked the suggestion of declaring a "fiscal crisis," saying it could spook the financial markets.

The suggestion of adjusting the IRA elicited both support and criticisms.

FINANCE/ B2

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10 firms expected to list in '06

PSE moves to win back funds invested in foreign markets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange expects about 10 companies from different sectors to hold their initial public offerings this year.

PSE president Francis Lim declined to identify all these companies but said that First Generation Corp., the utility firm of the Lopez Group of Companies, and Universal Robina Corp. of the Gokongweis would hold their IPOs in February.

First Gen is set to raise about P11.2 billion through its IPO on Feb. 10, while URC will list additional shares.

"Money is now being channeled through private fund managers for investment abroad. The challenge now for the PSE is to work harder so that the money invested abroad will find its way back to the Philippines," Lim said.

He added that mining firm Carmen Copper was also set to list its shares on the PSE, as well as a small export company which was hoping to raise P250-P300 million from the IPO in the second quarter of the year.

Lim is upbeat on the market's prospects for the year, given the expected growth in the economy.

Lim also expects television giant GMA Network Inc. and oil firm Pilipinas Shell to pursue their public offerings this year.

He was also urging United Laboratories Inc., National Bookstore and health and beauty products distributor Splash to proceed with their IPO plans.

"The economic indicators are good. The peso has appreciated by 4 percent against the US dollar. The gross international reserves are at a record high and the fiscal deficit is being contained. These factors will encourage companies to list their shares," Lim said.

He said Splash had indicated its interest in going public which he hoped would happen this year.

LIM

From January to September, PSE's operating revenue surged 121 percent to P223 milion due to higher listing fees from the IPOs of SM Investments Corp. and Manila Water.

ALI, gov't lock horns over IS property price

By Daxim L. Lucas

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND INC. (ALI) and the government remain locked in negotiations over the former International School campus in Makati City, with the property's price tag being the most contentious issue.

Speaking to reporters last Thursday evening, ALI president and CEO Jaime I. Ayala said price considerations were foremost on the firm's list of concerns over the five-hectare lot.

"It's a very good site," he said. "We already have a number of property in Makati, but if it's [offered at] the right price, we're always interested."

Ayala said local government-imposed zoning restrictions that prevented the property from being developed into a commercial site also failed to dampen his firm's interest.

A ranking government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government wanted to be paid in cash for the property, while ALI was offering a combination of cash and potential additional earnings, depending on the success of the property's development.

"What [ALI is] offering is a guaranteed cash portion and a 'non-guaranteed' upside," said the official who has knowledge of the negotiations. "But [the government] would rather have the entire amount up front."

He said the "semi-joint venture" nature of ALI's proposal was "difficult" to accept.

ALI, however, has its eyes set firmly on a joint venture project. "We prefer joint ventures with the landowners," Ayala said, explaining that it was easier to move real estate developments forward with the original owners still onboard the projects.

ALI is presently evaluating other joint venture projects with the national government, to add to its list of partnerships to develop state-owned assets.

He said the government had some "very attractive assets" which ALI is interested in developing, although he declined to reveal specifics.

Current ALI- government JV projects include the North Triangle commercial project in Quezon City, and the Market! Market!, Serendra, and the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. projects in Taguig City.

Robinsons Land Corp. of tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. is ALI's closest rival for the property, for which the government's Privatization and Management Office (PMO) has set a floor price of P1.18 billion.

During the bidding last November, however, representatives of both firms declined to submit their bids. Both reportedly want the PMO to further lower the floor price, despite the reduction earlier from from P1.9 billion.

Ayala said the site was ideal for an information technology-related project, since zoning rules of the Makati City government allow the area to be used only as an educational institution.

Smart offers new price package

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. AND AFFILiate Talk N' Text launched a new marketing promo that was seen to further heighten the price war among major players in the telecommunication business.

Smart and Talk N' Text will start offering on Jan. 15 a fixed price of P10 for every 10-minute call of their subscribers to Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. subscribers.

This is equivalent to only P1 per minute, which beats Globe Telecom Inc.'s 10-centavo for every second of call, equivalent to P6 per minute.

However, the promo applies only to calls to PLDT and that the flat rate of P10 would be charged whether or not the call actually reached 10 minutes.

Butch Jimenez, officer-in-charge of Smart's marketing division, said the newest promo would initially run up to Feb. 5 but could be extended if warranted.

The promo, he said, was open to all Smart or Talk N' Text prepaid customers, which stood at more than 20 million as of end- 2005. PLDT has more than 2.1 million users.

"We are coming out with more innovative and flexible pricing packages to make telecommunications services more affordable and better attuned to the needs of our subscribers," said Jimenez.

Just recently, PLDT had re-launched its P10-per-call pricing scheme to all PLDT, Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers.

To avail themselves of the P10 for 10-minute PLDT calls, Smart subscribers must type the area code and the PLDT number of the subscriber and send to 883. (Example: type 02888111, send to 883).

Upon sending the number to 883 via text, the subscriber will receive a call also from 883. Immediately after answering the call, the subscriber will be connected to the PLDT number he wanted to reach.

A minimum of P10 airtime balance is needed to make a call under the promo, said Jimenez. Otherwise, the subscriber will get the message informing him that the balance was insufficient to complete the call.

Smart subscribers with SuperSIM cards have the option to download a special menu by typing "call" and sending it to 211.

Regular rates will apply starting the 11th minute of the call.

Globe is asking the National Telecommunications Commission to undo the P10-per-call pricing scheme of PLDT and its wireless affiliates. It claimed that this pricing scheme was predatory even if PLDT had offered to include other carriers in the promo.

PLDT, in a Dec. 6 letter to Globe, said that it could include its fierce rival in the promo if it would agree to adjust the termination rate between Globe and PLDT.

For calls up to 15 million minutes, PLDT proposed an access charge of P3.50 from the current P4 a minute for Globe to PLDT and P3 for PLDT to Globe.

The next 2.5 million minutes (15 million to 17.5 million) should be covered by an access rate of P2.50 a minute then down to P1 a minute for the next 2.5 million (17.5 million to 20 million).

UK company putting up aviation school

A UK-BASED COMPANY IS INVESTING $15.6 million to put up a world-class aviation school at the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ).

International Aviation Group (IAG) chair and CEO Mark Pearson signed an agreement with CDC for the project, which was expected to commence operations in May this year.

Pearson said the firm would also infuse an additional $12.5 million in its second year of operations following the arrival of more training equipment including flight simulators by 2007.

"Initially, we will have three flight training devices; two fixed-base simulators covering the basic and intermediate phases of the flight instruction, and a A320 Level D full flight simulator," he said.

The school will focus on training for Airbus 320 aircraft.

IAG's partners in the project include Prescient Systems and Technologies Pte. Ltd. of India and SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited of Singapore. The new facility will not only address the serious shortage of pilots in Asia and around the world but will also serve as a pilot recurrent training facility for airlines in the region.

The firm is also intending to recruit and train, if necessary, local instructors with the objective that ultimately the majority of the instructors will be Filipinos.

Farm . . .

From page B1

ed to repair and construct irrigation facilities covering 1.2 million hectares of farmlands nationwide. Some P500 million would be specifically allocated for the purchase and distribution of inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.

Panganiban said that repair of the irrigation facilities was long overdue due to slow disbursement of government funds. *With a report from Reuters*

Shares down 0.5% . . .

From page B1

The ruling Lakas political party is scheduled to hold a crucial caucus today to discuss a proposed shift to parliamentary government that may affect President Macapagal Arroyo's term.

"The market is generally optimistic, although I think some people are a little bit concerned on the political situation," said Fitzgerald Aclan, research head of Wealth Securities in Manila.

Analysts said risks to the positive outlook on the Philippines include a repeat of the political turmoil in the third quarter of last year amid opposition charges that Ms Arroyo rigged the 2004 election.

"We're seeing some pockets of profit-taking which is only normal since the market has been trading higher since the start of the week," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities.

AP, AFP

Remittances jump 27% to $9.7B

From page B1

banking channels also contributed to the higher level of remittances," Tetangco said.

He said such efforts focused on the introduction of improved system of money transfer, establishment of remittances centers abroad and arrangements with foreign financial institutions to service the banking needs of overseas workers.

Including inflows coursed through the informal channels—referring to unlicensed or unregulated operations such as friends, acquaintances or other travelers—OFW remittances last year were estimated at $12.3 billion.

Based on studies on the Mexican experience, remittances held as deposits in the banking system have a beneficial multiplier effect of between two to three times as these could be channeled to investments in small and microbusinesses.

The BSP is aggressively promoting the use of formal banking channels as a safer and more productive cash remittance system for Filipinos working abroad.

DOJ junks complaints against CAP

From page B1

Jaime L. Umpa and three other state prosecutors

The DOJ also said the SEC "failed to point out any specific act that would show CAP's involvement or participation in the supposed violations of the SRC."

"It is fairly evident that the complainant merely resorted to abstract and general averments on the duties of the board of directors and officers (of CAP). The complaint suffers from vagueness and generalization," it pointed out.

The SEC filed a criminal complaint with the DOJ last September against CAP for the reported illegal sale of plans after its permit to sell was suspended by the corporate regulator in 2004.

The SEC said CAP sold 6,434 worth of unregistered plans worth P325.3 million between June and August 2004. Of this, P47.96 million have been paid by plan holders. The SEC's non-traditional securities department earlier certified that CAP's P5 billion worth of fixed value education plans were sold out as of June 2004.

In June 2004, CAP reported an over-issuance of unregistered plans worth P64.27 million. Of this amount, a total of P24.97 million was paid by the plan holders to CAP.

The SEC said it also found that CAP continued to sell unregistered plans from July 1 to 31. CAP also admitted selling 2,456 unregistered plans in July 2004 worth P206.24 million. Of this amount, P18.71 million were paid by unregistered plan holders to CAP.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Jan. 13, 2006)

Stocks	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36	35	35.5	329,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56.5	56	56.5	334,800
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	2,500
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65	65.5	63	63	346,500
International Exch. Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	60,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	33.5	33.5	1,067,000
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	32.5	32.5	71,000
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	36	36	36	36	170,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31.5	31	31.5	1,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	800
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	77,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	141	141	140	140	5,050
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2145	2160	2145	2160	490
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.64	50,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	52	52.5	51.5	51.5	1,316,700
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14	14	20,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.25	21.5	558,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,567,000
Petron Corp.	5	5.1	4.95	4.95	4,549,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	500,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.5	3,629,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	22.75	42,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	41	41	41	41	258,400
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.46	1.38	1.46	810,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64	63.5	64	102,500
San Miguel Corp. B	88	88	87.5	88	53,900
Universal Robina Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	6,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	280,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	3,210,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.88	1.08	0.88	1.06	33,430,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	50,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.65	4.65	4.6	4.65	2,159,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	100,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	760,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	900,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	77,000,000
Ayala Corp.	340	340	332.5	335	128,660
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.52	1,030,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	10,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	141,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	500,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	24,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.18	1.2	7,970,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.15	3.15	1,768,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	265,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.04	1.18	1.04	1.18	430,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.25	4.05	4.15	2,924,000
Medco Holdings	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	730,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	5,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	27,220,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	27,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	90,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	1,400,000
SM Investments Corp.	240	240	239	240	552,540
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.11	0.125	0.11	0.12	4,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.5	8,190,200
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1,760,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	8,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.185	0.17	0.175	4,720,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.18	1.1	1.14	2,870,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.9	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.22	4,150,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	1,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.47	17,400,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.72	0.72	240,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	3,063,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	600,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	750,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	660,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	2,921,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	8,730,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6	160,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,090,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	149,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	3,710,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,800,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.25	12.25	74,400
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.93	3,040,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760	765	750	750	13,770
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.5	1,699,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1845	1845	1840	1845	89,950
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	18,000,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	384,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	578,400
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.38	1.26	1.38	7,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.64	1.54	1.6	3,848,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	176,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.35	0.27	0.33	2,690,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	4,000
Far Eastern University	560	560	560	560	40
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	33,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	344,000
Paxys Inc.	6.5	7	6.5	6.9	4,791,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.22	6,112,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.44	1.58	1.44	1.58	8,465,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	32,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6.2	6	6	1,594,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.5	21,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.62	129,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	2,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.31	16,620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	33,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	84,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.48	1.56	1.46	1.56	8,756,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.16	2.34	2.16	2.3	24,335,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25	25.5	1,409,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	51,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	620,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.75	3.9	77,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	190,900

CURRENCIES

January 13, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830634	1.000000	52.4530
Japan	Yen	0.007269	0.008751	0.4590
United Kingdom	Pound	1.462082	1.760200	92.3278
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107159	0.129009	6.7669
Switzerland	Franc	0.646206	0.777968	40.8068
Canada	Dollar	0.714401	0.860067	45.1131
Singapore	Dollar	0.510719	0.614855	32.2510
Australia	Dollar	0.623880	0.751089	39.3969
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.203857	2.653224	139.1696
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221497	0.266660	13.9871
Brunei	Dollar	0.509154	0.612970	32.1521
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000107	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021074	0.025371	1.3308
UAE	Dirham	0.226158	0.272272	14.2815
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.203900	63.1482
Argentina	Peso	0.272876	0.328515	17.2316
Brazil	Real	0.366564	0.441306	23.1478
Denmark	Kroner	0.134038	0.161368	8.4642
India	Rupee	0.018882	0.022732	1.1924
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222065	0.267344	14.0230
Mexico	New Peso	0.078451	0.094447	4.9540
New Zealand	Dollar	0.575710	0.693097	36.3550
Norway	Kroner	0.124108	0.149414	7.8372
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013901	0.016736	0.8779
South Africa	Rand	0.137331	0.165333	8.6722
Korea	Won	0.000853	0.001027	0.0539
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026093	0.031413	1.6477

Finance wants . . .

From page B1

The leadership of the Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (Phaltra) expressed support for the proposal. Phaltra president Victor Endriga, concurrently Quezon City treasurer, said rich cities like QC should even agree to give up their share of the IRA to give way to poorer LGUs.

But some LGUs have opposed the proposal, saying trimming down the IRA would adversely affect economic growth down the local level.

Sen. Ralph Recto filed a bill protecting the LGUs' share in national government revenues. Under Senate Bill No. 1388, which amends the Local Government Code, the President is prohibited from adjusting the IRA even amid a fiscal problem by the national government.

Recto said allowing the President to adjust the IRA poses threat on the sufficient delivery of public services.

Transco bent on completing Mindanao facility

Sangali-Pitogo transmission link expected to address rising power demand in Zamboanga

ORTIZ

By Abigail L. Ho

SET ON PREVENTING A POWER crisis in Mindanao, the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) is bent on finishing the P1.1-billion Sangali-Pitogo 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission project by the end of 2007.

Alan Ortiz, Transco president and chief executive, yesterday said in a statement that the Miyazawa-funded project was proceeding on schedule.

Ortiz said the transmission facility would boost power reliability and quality in Western Mindanao.

The project involves the construction of a 32-kilometer, 138-kV double circuit steel tower transmission line from Transco's Sangali substation to the new Pitogo substation in Zamboanga City.

By the end of this month, Ortiz said the required insulator assemblies and accessories would have been delivered. Contracts for the supply and delivery of steel towers, optical ground wires, power conductors and associated hardware had likewise been awarded.

Transco is now evaluating bids for the turn-key construction of the 100-megavolt-ampere (MVA) Pitogo substation, Ortiz said.

The contract for the third project component, which consisted of the supply of labor and equipment for the construction of the 32-km transmission line, would be up for bidding by the third quarter, with the actual contract expected to be awarded by the fourth quarter.

Since the entire Sangali-Pitogo project would be an upgrade of the existing 69-kV line, Ortiz said Transco would be using the existing route to avoid affecting new lots and densely populated areas.

Upon completion, the Sangali-Pitogo link will provide reliable bulk power services in Mindanao and address the long-term power requirements of the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone located in San Ramon district.

The link is expected to serve the city's power transmission needs for the next 10 to 15 years.

The Sangali-Pitogo project is part of the Zamboanga City Area 138-kV Power Transmission Project, which aims to reinforce the existing transmission network and address the projected surge in power demand in Zamboanga City and the rest of Western Mindanao.

"With the much improved peace and order situation, Mindanao is now an area of rapid growth," Ortiz said. "Thus, we are working relentlessly on several transmission line and substation projects under our Mindanao Transmission Augmentation Program to meet Mindanao's rising power demand."

NY-based software provider out to tap RP's call center market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL UNIT OF MANAGEMENT SOFTware provider Computer Associates International Inc. is out to tap the relatively underserved Philippine call center market following its acquisition of a network service management service provider last year.

Joy Balmadres, Computer Associates country manager, said the call center and business process outsourcing industry would be a strong market to expand into, considering the popularity of the country as destination for outsourced services.

"CA is traditionally into mainframes and works mainly with clients in the banking and finance sector," Balmadres said. "We are looking at the BPO/CC sector since it is not yet highly penetrated."

CA, which is based in New York, will make use of Concord Communications' expertise in tapping the market, she said.

Owen Gan, a Singapore-based systems management expert who was originally with Concord, said they had started holding seminars to reach out to potential customers here.

"We now have six customers here, but we see a lot of potential for growth of business here," Gan said. "Systems management is an $11.5-billion market worldwide in 2003, and it is seen to grow at a compound rate of 7.6 percent annually through 2008."

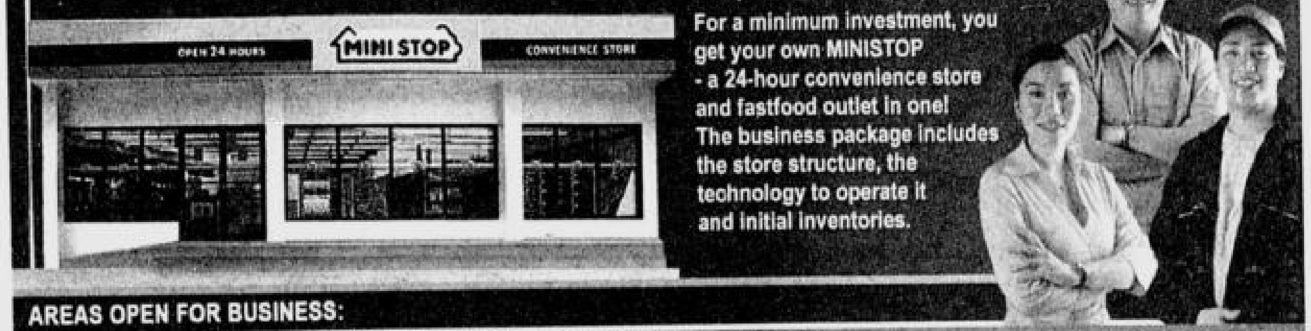
Gan said telecommunications firms and BPO firms would lose an average of $3 million an hour whenever their systems shut down. The shutdowns usually last eight hours, costing the firms about $24 million.

"We are able to find a solution in half an hour, which translates to $22.5 million in savings for our clients," he said.

Asked whether third generation telecommunications service also offered the same potential for growth, Gan said this might not be so in the near future since 3G was not widely used in Asia outside of Japan and South Korea.

Balmadres said the cause of this was that people had not found a use for 3G communications.

"This is why 3G service providers are turning to content providers to find ways that would make 3G more useful in terms of everyday life," she said.



MIGUELIN
V.G CRUZ
MARZAN
ESPANA
V.G. CRUZ
TO MANILA
ESPANA
WELCOME ROTONDA
QUEZON AVE.
JOLLIBEE
LEGARDA
MENDIOLA
CM RECTO
SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE

Be a MINISTOP Business Partner!
MINISTOP 24 HOURS
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Altis 1.6 E M/T	765,000	100,000	56,834	39,137	31,201	22,265	17,966	15,506
Altis 1.6 J M/T	708,000	100,000	51,702	35,604	28,389	20,258	16,347	14,106
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Innova 2.5 G M/T	980,000	100,000	76,634	52,772	42,047	30,005	24,211	20,909
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No joke: Laughter could be really the best medicine

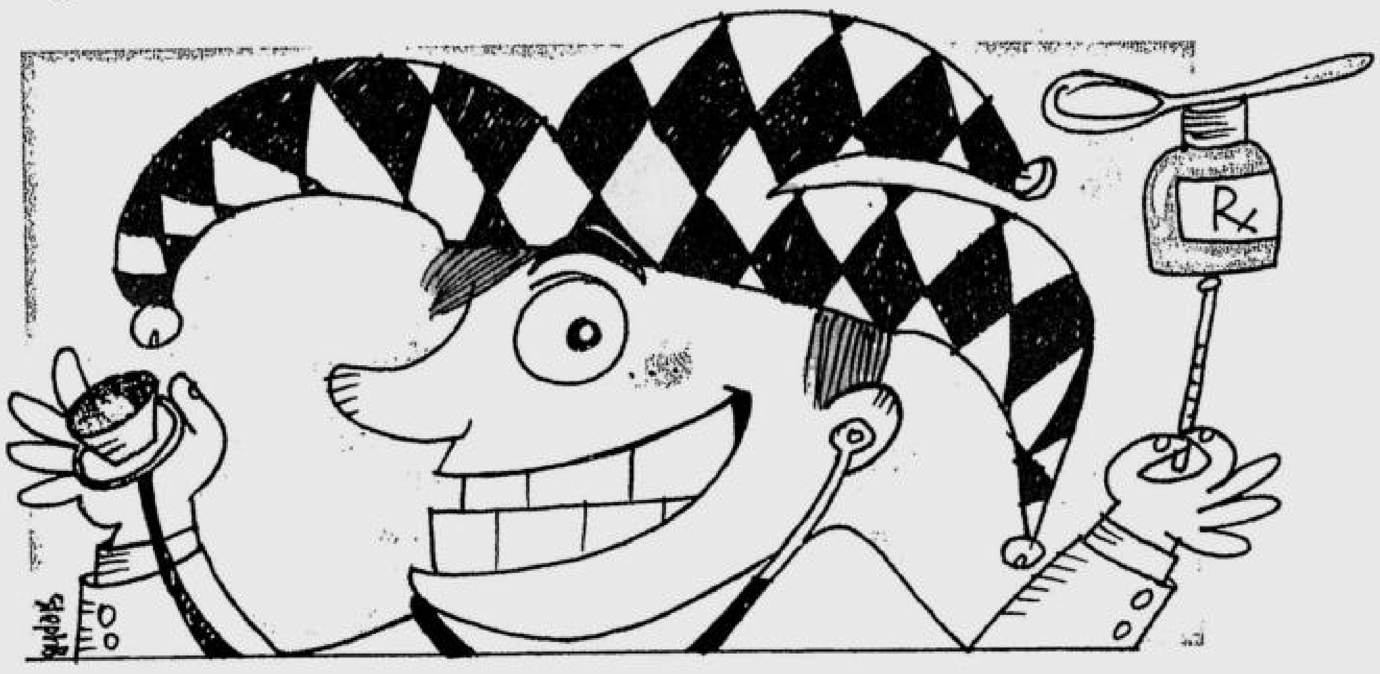
OSAKA, JAPAN—IT HAS been said that laughter is the best medicine, but no one has yet to prove it. Now a Japanese scientist is unlocking the secrets of the funny bone, which he believes can cheer up people's genes.

Geneticist Kazuo Murakami has teamed up on the study with an unlikely research partner: stand-up comedians, who he hopes can turn their one-liners into efficient, low-cost medical treatment.

Genes are usually regarded as immutable, but in reality more than 90 percent of them are dormant or less active in producing protein, so some types of stimulation can wake them up.

Murakami's tentative theory is that laughter is one such stimulant, which can trigger energy inside a person's DNA, potentially helping cure disease.

"If we prove people can switch genes on and off by an emotion like laughter, it may be the finding of the century which should be worth the Nobel Prize or even go beyond that," said Murakami, 70, director of Japan's Foundation for Advancement of International Science.



Lower blood glucose levels

Three years ago, Murakami and Yoshimoto Kogyo Co. Ltd., a leading entertainment company, jointly carried out their first experiment to let diabetics laugh at a comedy show performed by the firm's top stand-up comedians after listening to a monotonous college lecture.

The two-day experiment showed that their blood glucose levels—a key gauge for development of diabetes—became lower after they laughed compared with after listening to the yawning lecture.

Murakami's latest experiment with the entertainment firm spotted at least 23 genes that can be activated. Eighteen of them are designed to work for immune response, signal transduction and cell cycle, while functions of the remaining five others are still unknown.

The findings, which Murakami says are the first of their kind, are scheduled to be published in Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, a US academic journal.

'How to laugh' DVD

"A laughing therapy has no side effect, meaning it is an epoch-making treatment for clinical medicine," Murakami said. "One day it won't be a joke to see patients receive a prescription for a comedy video at a pharmacy for medical treatment."

Having a good laugh has long been thought of as therapeutic. Laughter has been taught by yoga masters in India, home to a growing number of "laughing clubs" whose members get together just to enjoy a chuckle.

Expectations from Murakami's research are particularly high in Japan, where medicare costs are increasing year after year as the country rapidly ages.

Even though the research was still in its early stages, a Japanese medical publisher, under the editorial guidance of Murakami's research team, began selling DVDs last year instructing patients with diabetes on how to laugh.

Preventive medical care

The ministry of economy, trade and industry believes that laughter therapy could be put to good use in a project as demand grows for preventive medical care.

With the ministry's financial support, Osaka Sangyo University in western Japan formed a joint venture with researchers, firms and doctors in 2004 to provide elderly people with a complete medical care program combining physical training and laughter therapy.

Mitsutoshi Nishikawa, a university official in charge of the "Daito Dynamic Project," said Osaka was an ideal location to launch the project as the city is famous for its humor culture, with residents said to be less hesitant to laugh in public than more taciturn Tokyo.

In the program, participants receive a medical checkup and gymnastic exercises while enjoying a comedy show performed by professional comedians. It also offers them cooking classes on making healthy foods.

According to project officials, the 92 participants polled said their combined annual medicare costs fell 23 percent to 2.26 million yen ($19,800) after they joined the program. *AFP*

Learning more about hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

RENATO SIMON OF CEBU CITY ASKS IF his doctor did the right thing in prescribing a cholesterol-lowering drug belonging to the statin class even if his cholesterol level in the blood is still within normal range (180 mg/dl). He is also taking antidiabetic medications.

Statins and other cholesterol-lowering drugs are primarily used to lower cholesterol levels, but they have other cardiovascular benefits not necessarily related to cholesterol lowering that can prevent heart attacks and strokes. This is called the pleiotropic effects of this type of drugs. Based on current clinical evidence, high-risk patients should benefit from statins regardless of their cholesterol levels.

We don't have a complete picture of Renato's risk-factor profile since he did not mention this in his letter. One risk factor in males is age (above 45 years). So is a history of heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular problems in parents or siblings. Smoking, being overweight and sustained, uncontrolled stress are additional risk factors.

Complete test

Ideally, one should get a complete cholesterol test which should include the high-density lipoprotein (good cholesterol), low-density lipoprotein (bad cholesterol) and triglycerides. Many people with normal total cholesterol levels also have low HDL, which is a risk factor.

Renato mentioned that he is diabetic. Diabetes is now considered a heart disease equivalent, meaning a diabetic already has the same risk-level as one who has an established heart disease. Diabetes, by itself, magnifies the cardiovascular risk of an individual. Renato's doctor did the right thing in prescribing a statin even if his cholesterol level is still normal.

It's important that patients fully understand their medical problems and the rationale for each drug they're taking. I plead guilty that I sometimes don't spend enough time explaining to my patients their disease and treatment. Doctors really need to make a conscious effort to do this.

Lay forum

Recognizing the importance of patient education so they can be active partners in the treatment of their cardiovascular problems, the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and Philippine Lipid Society (PLS) are sponsoring a lay forum on life-threatening conditions that complicate hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol problems or dyslipidemia. This will be the kick-off activity for the 11th joint annual convention of the PSH and the PLS.

The lay forum is scheduled on Feb. 5 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Medical experts will serve as resource speakers.

According to Dr. Esperanza Cabral, organizing committee chair, this preconvention activity is part of a series of public education campaigns conducted by the PSH and the PLS to help control the upsurge of cardiovascular diseases, which remain the country's top causes of deaths.

All major risk factors including high blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol problems, obesity, smoking and stress will be tackled by medical experts. Practical tips will be given on how to control these risk factors and prevent heart attacks and strokes.

The expert panel include Dr. Nelson Abelardo, PSH president; Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, PLS president; and Dr. Ma. Teresa Plata-Que, president of Philippine Diabetes Association. Overall coordinator of the forum is Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy.

The forum is open to the public for free but due to limited seats, advance registration is required. For inquiries call the PSH-PLS secretariat at 631-7970, 687-7073 or 687-2841. Deadline for registration is Jan. 27.

Drug firms remain committed in developing new drugs

By Charles E. Buban

DESPITE THE STIFF COMPETITION from generic drug makers, some of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies are assuring the public that they will go on developing lifesaving medicines for some of the world's biggest killers.

Representatives from Pfizer Inc., GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) said during a recent forum in Makati City that only through long-term research and development (R&D) would they be able to ensure the public that the medicines that reach the market are effective and safe.

A large number of the 1,000 medicines currently in development will fail in clinical trials and bringing medicines to patients will require, on average, 10 to 15 years of testing and review by regulatory authorities. But the pharmaceutical companies said they would continue with their R&D because some of these drugs may represent tomorrow's breakthroughs to cure or prevent disease, reduce disability and improve one's quality of life.

"The cost of developing a medicine is offset by the enormous value it brings to patients, to society, to the healthcare system and to the savings it generates," said Pfizer corporate affairs director Karen Villanueva.

Villanueva said major healthcare companies spend $800 million to $1.7 billion in bringing a new medicine to the market.

Product credibility

Without R&D, the public cannot be sure that the medicines it takes are manufactured according to right standards or have been proven effective and safe, said Noel Isberto, GSK senior vice president for corporate affairs.

"Long and conscientious R&D processes lend an enormous amount of credibility to any product and this is critical when it comes to medicines, as with any other product designed to save lives. Without the brand, and the quality R&D associated with the brand, one will have no basis for evaluating the medicine," he said.

But because of economic difficulties, patients tend to focus too much on the cost of medicines rather than the cost of the disease.

According to MSD medical director Dr. Cesar Recto it is important for patients to know that not all medicines are created equal and that choosing lower-priced medicines not backed up by R&D could prove more costly in the long run.

"Although the cost of medicine is an important issue especially in these difficult times, we should look at the bigger picture and also consider the more important issue, which is the cost of disease," he said.

Better compliance

Villanueva said taking medicines that safely and effectively treat high cholesterol levels, for example, may spare a patient the risk of having to undergo a costly bypass surgery or a poststroke rehabilitation therapy.

Another example is the convenience of taking short-course, antibiotic treatment, which may be more effective in treating infections as it encourages compliance, thus reducing the risk of recurrence and relapse and antibiotic resistance.

Recto said well-researched medicines have a higher chance of providing better protection against potential health complications that may lead to hospitalization, absence from work, and poor quality of life, factors that could drain one's financial resources in the long run.

"If patients take medicines that don't do what they're supposed to do, they run the risk of getting more sick later on and spending more money on additional treatment," Recto said.

Eating well

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

A POPULAR NEW Year's resolution is to lose weight, but since this rarely extends beyond the first month, why not change it to eating right instead? Changes do not have to be drastic (such as switching to another questionable diet); in fact, small improvements can make a huge improvement in overall health. Taking vitamins and minerals regularly is something we can resolve to do (and keep the resolution).

We know all about vitamin C, vitamin E, calcium, but Dr. Lydia Marero of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) reminds us of an often overlooked mineral: potassium.

She states, "If you experience muscular weakness, increased nervous irritability, mental disorientation, and cardiac irregularities, chances are your diet needs spicing up with a little more of potassium.

"The right amount of potassium is vital for muscle contraction, nerve impulses, hitch-free functioning of the heart and kidneys, and it helps regulate blood pressure and water balance in cells.

"Potassium influences fluid-electrolyte balance and acid-base balance, and plays a significant role in the activity of the skeletal and cardiac muscles. It also contributes to the transmission of nerve impulses and to the maintenance of normal blood pressure."

For people with high blood pressure, food low in sodium and high in potassium are necessary. What's more, these foods need not be expensive. Take the banana (*saba, latundan, gloria*) and sweet potato (the yellow variety)—both contain around 400 mg of potassium. Other good sources are dried beans, dark green and leafy vegetables, fish and shellfish, eggs and other dairy products.

Eat more fish

Another resolution we can keep is to eat more fish, which has less total and saturated fat than meat and poultry. Fish, the perfect meat substitute, is also a source of omega-3 fatty acids, which can help lower the risk of heart attack. A great source of protein, fish can be grilled, broiled, baked, sauteed and steamed usually in about 10 minutes. What more can a busy cook ask for?

However, we need to select fish wisely. M. Balitaon of the FNRI gives the following reminders:

- Fresh fish has no fishy odor. It should be used within two days of purchase.
- Fish should be wrapped and stored in the freezer.
- Frozen fish should be undamaged, the fish should not be off-color, and no freezer burn should be seen.
- Fish fillet should be moist with no drying or browning around the edges.
- Fish is ready to eat when it is opaque and flakes easily.

More protein sources

Other good sources of protein (and iron and B vitamins) are dried beans, legumes and nuts. Legumes are low in fat and high in fiber, and soybean products like *tokwa*, tofu and vegemeat are also good meat substitutes. FNRI media specialist Ma. Idelia Gloriosio says a cup of cooked *munggo* or a cup of raw peanuts can be substituted for a serving of meat.

Best of all, legumes are cheap. Beans can be cooked in many ways, such as *menudo de garbanzos*, pork and beans, kidney beans with *goto*, and *nilubihang munggo*.

For recipes, write or call: The Director, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Science and Technology, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City, Tel. No. 837-2934. You may also want to check the FNRI-DOST website: www.fnri.dost.gov.ph.

Solution to factoring problem

Regarding the factoring problems last week, several readers got the answers. But the best solution came from Arpee G. Par [mabspar@yahoo.com], who gave the following details:

1. $(x^3 + y^3)^2 + x^5y - 3x^3y^3 + xy^5 = x^6 - 2x^3y^3 + y^6 + x^5y - 3x^3y^3 + xy^5 = (x^6 + y^6) + (x^5y - x^3y^3 + xy^5) = (x^2 + y^2)(x^4 - x^2y^2 + y^4) + (xy)(x^4 - x^2y^2 + y^4) = (x^4 - x^2y^2 + y^4)(x^2 + xy + y^2)$

2. $a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + 2b^3 - 6b^2c + 12bc^2 - 8c^3 = (a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3) + (b^3 - 6b^2c + 12bc^2 - 8c^3) = (a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3) + [b^3 + 3b^2(-2c) + 3b(-2c)^2 + (-2c)^3] = (a + b)^3 + (b - 2c)^3$

Since this is a sum of two cubes, it can be further factored as:

$[(a+b) + (b-2c)]\,[(a+b)^2 - (a+b)(b-2c) + (b-2c)^2]$, which finally gives us $(a + 2b - 2c)(a^2 + ab + b^2 - 2bc + 2ac + 4c^2)$

How to stay healthy and young

EATING LIVE FOODS (OR those that contain active enzymes needed by the body like fresh fruits and vegetables and slightly cooked meals), regular exercise, positive thinking and keeping the mind and body busy at all times are among the tips given by Mariandy A. Fricke in her recently launched book titled "A Gift of Health."

Fricke, who is based in Germany, flew in recently to launch the book in Malate, Manila. The book essentially promotes holistic health and healing of the mind, body and spirit.

"Absorb the holistic concept and check your lifestyle. Every day, think of positive inputs to the mental-spiritual, physical and chemical aspects of your life," Fricke said.

Surround yourself with people with a positive attitude and a healthy lifestyle. "We have to create mutually beneficial relationships with friends, family and colleagues who care about us," she said.

Physical health

"Share your fitness goals with someone who will encourage you to be consistent with your program. Better yet, exercise with a friend. It always helps to have someone push you when you don't feel up to it," Fricke added.

There is no substitute for good old exercise to be healthy and fit. "A healthy body needs a strong heart and lungs, which are achieved through cardiovascular activity (aerobic exercises) like walking, jogging, swimming, dancing, biking or doing the house chores," Fricke said.

One way to prevent deterioration of entropy is giving the body something to do. In physics, entropy is counteracted by work, defined as the orderly application of energy. Without work, energy dissipates, Fricke stressed.

According to her, people who are sedentary have a higher risk for depression, disease and early death than those who are active. For this reason, Walter Bortz, a senior Stanford physician specializing in aging, has coined the term "disuse syndrome" to describe how the body suffers ill health and premature aging due to negligence in physical activity.

Spiritual health

Alongside physical health is spiritual health, an aspect so often overlooked, which means being intimately connected to give one innate joy and satisfaction. This means being connected with spouse, partner, family, friends and community.

"Through a harmonious relationship with people in your life, you learn to give and receive unconditional love," Fricke said.

"A mind filled with guilt, fear or negative feelings is disturbed and can affect all physiological and biological processes of the body," she stressed.

On nutrition, Fricke suggested eating "live" foods or those filled with enzymes needed by the body such as fruits and vegetables, nutritious fruit drinks and avoiding artificial food like sugar, starch, fat and alcoholic beverages. "Substitute those large portions of meat with other protein sources like soya beans and nuts," she said.

Avoid the top 10 toxins. These are sugar, white flour and refined carbohydrates, dairy products, red meat, food additives, caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, drugs and environmental toxins.

Other tips

Her other tips include:

- Analyze yourself. Find support to keep you motivated. Heal your pains and heartaches. Find out what keeps you from feeling good about yourself and work at removing these blocks.
- Plan your daily activities and the workouts and keep track of your progress in a diary or calendar to keep you motivated.
- Add variety to your daily physical and mental activities. This keeps you from being bored.
- Visualize yourself. What image would you like to achieve? Meditate on this image every day to speed up your success.
- Do something that makes you happy outside of the program, like dancing, singing or a hobby. Make time for this on a regular basis.
- Take time to recharge by communing with nature. Take a walk in the park, go mountain climbing or go to the beach to reconnect with Mother Earth. Life in the city can prevent us from living a balanced life. Spending time with nature helps restore the balance and deepens our connection with the spirit.
- Spending time near water can be spiritually reinvigorating because water has a high concentration of negative ions that recharge our whole system. Swimming in the ocean, lakes or rivers is a good way to absorb this life enhancing energy. Soaking yourself in a mineral hot spring also has therapeutic benefits.
- Of all natural elements, perhaps the closest expression of the spirit is air. Clean, fresh air is essential to health on all levels. That is why, as long as the weather permits, you must always keep the windows or doors open when doing the yoga or Qi gong.

BFAD approves entecavir for treatment of chronic hepatitis B

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB HAS announced that the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) has approved entecavir for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B virus infection.

The indication is in adults with evidence of active viral replication and either evidence of persistent elevations in serum aminotransferases (ALT or AST) or histologically active disease.

Entecavir is an oral antiviral therapy specifically designed to block the replication of hepatitis B virus (HBV) in the liver. The drug will be available in the Philippines in the first quarter of this year.

Life-threatening disease

Chronic hepatitis B infection is a potentially life-threatening disease. More than half a million people worldwide die each year from primary liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma), and up to 80 percent of primary liver cancers are caused by chronic hepatitis B.

The prevalence rate of chronic hepatitis B in the country ranges from 5 to 16 percent, placing the Philippines in the intermediate-to-high endemic region. More than half (59 percent) of the patients with cirrhosis and 82 percent of patients with liver cancer in the Philippines are caused by hepatitis B infection. Primary liver cancer is the most common gastrointestinal cancer and third most common cancer in the Philippines.

"With the approval of entecavir in the Philippines, Bristol-Myers Squibb will now be able to address another area of significant unmet medical need: hepatitis B," said David Elsaputra, general manager, Bristol-Myers Squibb Philippines Inc.

Important step forward

"Developed in our own laboratories, entecavir is an important step forward for patients and our company, as we seek to realize our mission of extending and enhancing human life by focusing on discovering, developing and providing innovative treatments for serious diseases," Elsaputra said.

The Asian-Pacific consensus statement on the management of chronic hepatitis B: a 2005 update, states that sustained viral suppression is the key to reduction or prevention of hepatic injury and disease progression and the primary goal of treatment for chronic hepatitis B is to eliminate or permanently suppress the hepatitis B viral load.

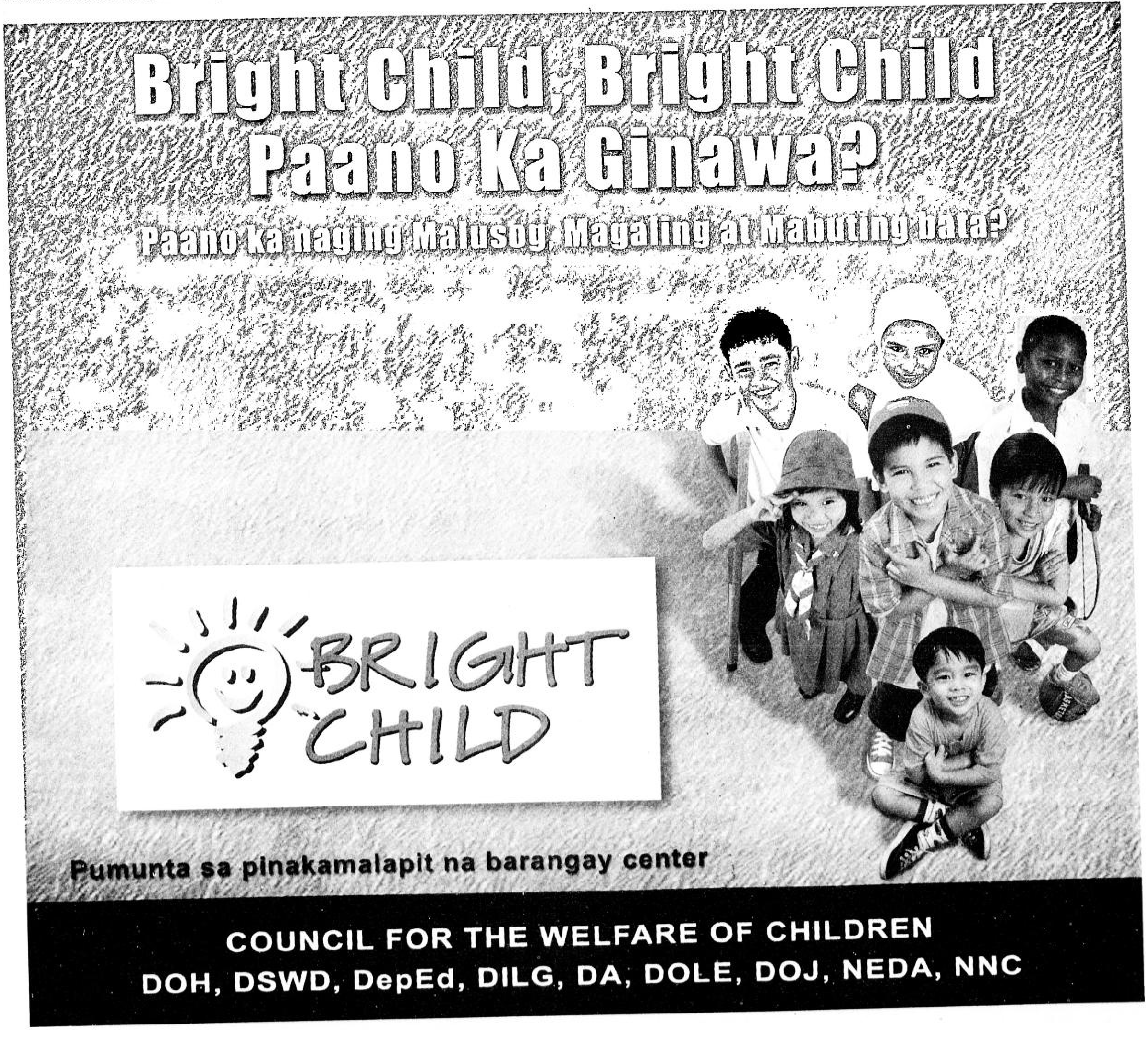
Viral load is a key predictor of progression to serious liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC or liver cancer). The higher the viral load the greater the risk of developing cirrhosis and HCC.

Important new medication

With the approval of entecavir, physicians have an important new medication to treat chronic hepatitis B by reducing the viral load and the associated risk of developing cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Discovered at Bristol-Myers Squibb, entecavir is a nucleoside analogue, approved for marketing in the United States by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on March 29.

To date, entecavir has also been approved in several countries including China, Macau and Indonesia. Bristol-Myers Squibb has submitted marketing applications for entecavir in other regions and countries around the world, including Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong.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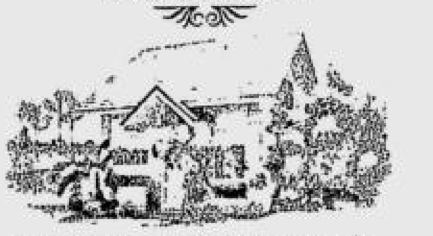

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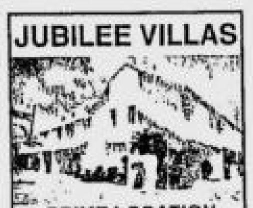

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RESTITUTO M. BAUTISTA

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 11, 2006. He was 65.

Resty's wife **Ma. Linda**; children **Ma. Reslinda** and **Rey, Ress, Ma. Reneé** and **Ian; Resti** and **Maria Cecilia, Ma. Rhida** and **Ma. Rae**; grandchildren **Mica, Raji** and **Matty**; brothers and sisters **Marcelino, Humberto, Leanarda, Agatona, Felicitas** and **Beata**; relatives and friends request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Resty's remains are at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

A mass will be held at 3:00 p.m. on January 15, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina. Interment follows.

ROSALIA DE JESUS GAMBOA

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 12, 2006 at the age of 49.

Her daughter **Abigail**; brothers **Marco** and **Norman**; sisters **Linda** and **Marlene**; bestfriend **Vicky**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in Heaven.

Her body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Cremation will take place at Manila Memorial Park Crematory after the 9:00 a.m. service on Tuesday, January 17, 2006.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the social welfare activities would be greatly appreciated.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

In Memory of our Beloved

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His children: **Fulbert** and **Bernadette, Maria Lanilee** and **Yasuhiro, Victorino Genise** and **Liza**; grandchildren: **Fulberns, Maria Keiko** and **Jose Hiroya, Vic Angelo, Vic Angeline, Vic Andrew** and **Victoria Genise**; brothers and sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives, friends and clients request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Edsa corner Bernardino St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Interment will be celebrated at Calatrava, Romblon on January 26, 2006.

TOMAS L. TORRES

ng Payapa, Malvar, Batangas

ay mapayapang namatay noong ika 13 ng Enero 2006 sa gulang na 96.

Ang kanyang nagluluksang mga Anak na si **RUBEN** at **MANDY, DANTE** at **LORRIE, BABY, ROMY** at **VIOLY**, lahat na mga **APO** at mga **KAPATID** na si **NARDING** at **DINOY**, ay nakikiusap na inyong ipagdasal para sa kapayapaan ng kanyang kaluluwa.

Ang kanyang labi ay nakaburol sa NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS na matatagpuan sa Daang Dau, Barangay San Antonio, Lungsod ng Makati.

Ang libing ay saka na ipapaalam.

"It matters not how strait the gate
How charged with punishment the scroll
I am the Master of my Fate
I am the Captain of my soul."

CRESENCIO PAMINTUAN GARCIA

April 19, 1918 – January 12, 2006

We, his bereaved family:

Wife: **Elisa Flores**
Children: **Zenaida, Angelita, Edgardo, Yolanda, Eleanor, Cristina**
Brothers: **Goido, Florentino, Cecilio**
In-laws and Grandchildren
request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the chapel of the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Interment will be on January 15, 2006, Sunday, after the 1:30 p.m. Holy Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
— John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

Call centers to generate more jobs

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY Patricia A. Sto. Tomas sees bright prospects in employment in 2006 with the call center industry expected to expand and generate more jobs for the Filipino workers.

In a radio interview, Sto. Tomas said positive developments locally and overseas indicate that the demand for skilled Filipino workers would be sustained this year.

She said that in the local industry, the highest number of jobs being recorded is in the call center area. She disclosed that at the start of the year, the DOLE has received a request for about 7,500 people to man call center seats.

The past years saw an unprecedented growth in call center jobs as more and more business process outsourcing firms set up their operations in the Philippines each year. The Bureau of Investments estimated that there are now about 112,000 people working in call centers in the country which brought in more than $1 billion in revenues in 2005. This was a sharp increase from 2000 when call centers employed just 2,400 people and earned only $24 million.

In the next four years, the country is targeting to capture about five percent of the global business process outsourcing amounting to as much as $10 billion.

Sto. Tomas, however, said that there have been difficulties in filling up call center seats because the number of English language proficient workers in the country is waning. Out of every 100 applicants, she said that only about five to 10 people are accepted, indicating an acceptance rate of only 5 to 10 percent.

The DOLE chief said that part of the problem could be a cultural thing. "I think we have people who do fairly well in written English but not very well in conversational English. Filipinos have the tendency not to correct wrong use of English in conversation as this would embarrass people," she said.

To address the problem and, thus, sustain the competitiveness of the country's call center industry, Sto. Tomas said that the DOLE and its attached agency, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), would meet with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education next month.

The objective of the inter-agency meeting, she said, is to come up with a plan of action that would enable more Filipino workers to meet the call centers' urgent need for language proficient staff.

Sto. Tomas also said that the demand for technical and vocational jobs would be sustained. Aside from call center positions, the other jobs that are in great demand are technical-vocational jobs such as automotive painters, mechanics, electricians, and technicians, she said.

Overseas, Sto. Tomas said that there is a continuing demand for nurses, seafarers, engineers, waiters and other hotel and restaurant positions, and technical and vocational workers as well.

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Placer
Community-Based Resource Management Project
(CBRMP)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: January 14, 2006
Loan No. 4299-PH
IFB NO. SFF-IPB-02-2005

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Finance (DOF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and Installation of **Ice Plant and Machineries.**
2. The Municipality of Placer now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and Installation of **Ice Plant and Machineries.**
3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply and installation of Ice Plant and Machineries to remote areas in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may purchase or inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of BAC Chairman, Municipal Hall, Placer, Surigao del Norte.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **January 16, 2006-February 13, 2006** upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php7,500.00).
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.
7. Bids must be delivered to the BAC Chairman, Municipality of Placer, on or before **2:00 p.m. on February 13, 2006** and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php300,000.00) in the form of Bank Guarantee.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **February 13, 2006; 2:00 p.m.** at BAC Chairman, Municipality of Placer.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **January 31, 2006; 2:00 p.m.**, at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **MRS. EMERITA P. ELEJAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Jan 14 & 21, 2006)

KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION / KEPCO ILIJAN CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

A. Kepco Philippines Corporation and Kepco Ilijan Corporation hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for:

One-Year Freight Forwarding, Customs Brokerage and Inland Transportation Services

B. Prospective bidders must have at least three (3) years operational experience.

C. The following eligibility requirement in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Procurement Department at 18th Floor Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo De Roxas Avenue, Bel-Air, Makati City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders.

1. SEC/DTI Registration Papers
2. 2005 Business Permits/Licenses
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2003 & 2004) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECEIVED" by BIR.
4. Company Profile
5. Complete listing of partners or foreign agents worldwide.
6. Copy of both local and international Forwarding and Brokerage licenses and accreditation, including the latest annual reports submitted to respective associations.
7. List of clients (past & present) especially in the power plant or related industries, with the corresponding summary of all importations.
8. List of company equipment and other assets.
9. A comprehensive Service Plan on how to handle our shipments in the event of contract award.

NOTE :
- DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK AND COUNTRY OF ORIGINS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COMMERCIAL BID DOCUMENTS
- ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

D. Deadline for submission : January 20, 2006

E. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.

F. Kepco Philippines Corporation and Kepco Ilijan Corporation reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders subject to technical and financial criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered to be the most advantageous to the company.

G. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Dal Hun Lee, Procurement Manager, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 848-0231 (loc. 152) or send fax to 848-0013 to 14.

KWAN HWAI HUR
General Manager
Admin. & Planning Group

(PDI–January 14, 2006)

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Measures sought for LPG facilities

By Abigail L. Ho

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND oil industry players are currently working on safety standards that will govern the establishment of retail outlets for liquefied petroleum gas, chiefly used as fuel for cooking and transportation.

Leading the Joint Government Oil Industry Technical Working Group is the Department of Energy. The agency is working closely with the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards, and the Department of Interior and Local Government's Bureau of Fire Protection, in formulating the standards.

On the private sector side, participants include members of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (Ippca) and the Philippine Petroleum Institute.

The group held its first meeting on Thursday, where participants set a three-month timeframe for completing the standards.

DOE oil industry management bureau director Zenaida Monsada said that by April, the group would already have come out with at least a draft of the safety measures that operators of LPG autogas refilling stations would have to follow.

"LPG is highly combustible, so we have to set stringent standards for refilling stations," Monsada told the INQUIRER. "This type of fuel can't be placed just anywhere, handled by just anyone and with no clear set of safety procedures. That's why we have to come out with our draft in three months."

Ippca chair and Eastern Petroleum Corp. president Fernando Martinez said the use of LPG autogas could reduce "motorists' gasoline bills by at least P8 a liter."

Earlier, he said that Eastern Petroleum would be putting up "energy stations," which would sell alternative fuels such as coco-biodiesel, ethanol-blended gasoline and LPG autogas, alongside traditional fuels such as gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

In the longer term, he said LPG autogas should account for the bulk of the oil firm's fuel sales.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF CONTAMINATED BUNKER-C AND WASTE OIL

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : January 18, 2006, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the contaminated Bunker-C and located Power Barge 106, Keppel Shipyard, Bauan, Batangas.

SCHEDULE-I

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1. Contaminated Bunker-C and waste oil approximately 460,000 liters located at PB-106, Keppel Shipyard Bauan, Batangas	P 8.00 / liter

Note : Interested parties who wish to secure bid form for the above items must be accredited/registered waste oil processors or treaters and must present valid DENR Permit to Operate

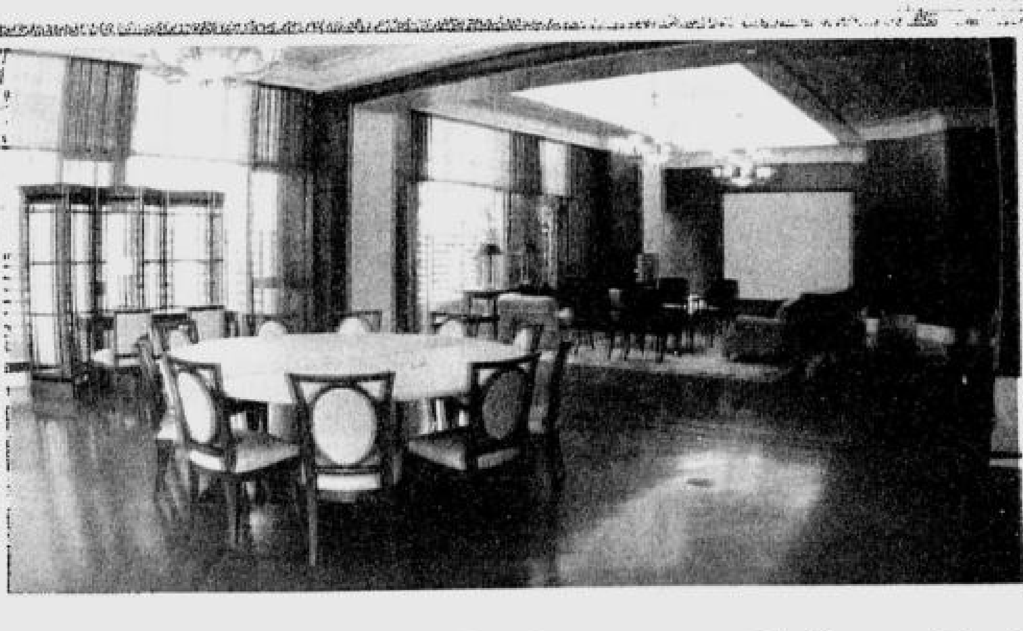
ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

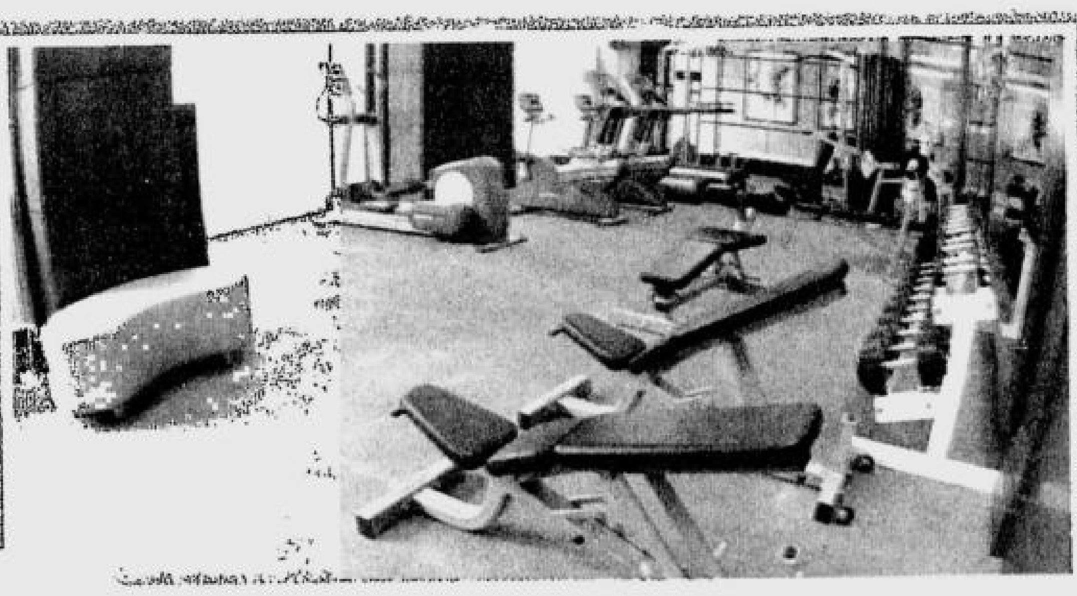
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004) ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER
3. VALID TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER
4. VALID PERMIT TO OPERATE AND TSD REGISTRATION

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P550.00/set from Mr. SAMUEL V. LOMUNTAD, Acting Manager, Warehousing, Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM January 17, 2006.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) ATTY. CATHERINE J. PABLO
Officer-In-Charge
Materials Management Department

(PDI – January 13, 14 & 15, 2006)





A jewel in Makati's skyline: The Shang Grand Tower opens its doors

Exactly two years and four months following its sales launch, the 46-storey The Shang Grand Tower has opened its doors to its new residents.

Standing majestically at the corners of Dela Rosa, Perea and Nieva Streets in Legaspi Village in Makati City, The Shang Grand Tower, the first self- funded luxury residential condominium project of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts' Kuok Group, continues to awe pedestrians and motorists with its architecture and elegant exteriors typical of a Kuok development.

Aside from enjoying their posh and spacious units built in the Shangri-La tradition, residents can enjoy the facilities at The Shang Grand Tower's Amenities Floor on Level 5: two swimming pools (one each for the adults and children) in a lush tropical setting, a gym and aerobics center, a multi- purpose room, a function room and a fully-equipped indoor kiddie play area.

They can also enjoy hotel-linked services including but not limited to laundry and dry cleaning, outside catering, transportation service from Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

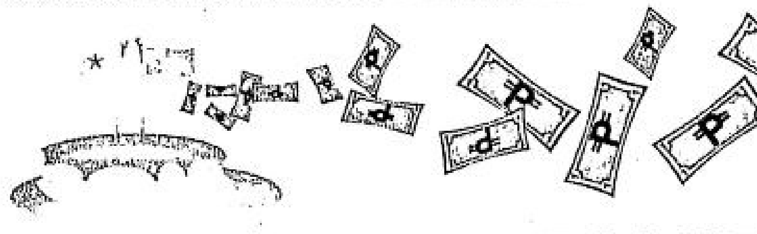
The management and staff of the EDSA Properties Holdings Inc.-Property Management Group (EPHI-PMG), will ensure 5-star services for the The Shang Grand Tower's residents. Currently, EPHI-PMG manages The Enterprise Center on Ayala Avenue.

For more information, please call 811-1819 or 811-0556 or visit www.theshanggrandtower.com

ADVT.

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

PROPERTY



PROPERTY FORECAST

'OFW phenomenon' to continue in 2006

By Tessa R. Salazar

WILL OVERSEAS Filipino workers' investments in their home country continue to rise or slacken this year?

Optimistic developers and real estate firms believe more money from OFWs will be pouring in.

Eric Soriano, ERA Philippines country president and CEO, said home mortgage investments develop "discipline" in the form of forced savings on OFW dependents.

"Our studies have shown that there is a 92 percent repayment of monthly amortizations among OFW homebuyers, a positive indicator for the industry," Soriano said.

"I believe the iceberg for OFW markets is very deep," he added.

Top priorities

According to him, statistics have shown that education and real estate are still top priorities for any OFW provider. Reinforcing OFW remittances are new money coming from balikbayans from North America and Europe.

Marivic Añonuevo, vice president and head of Ayala Land Inc.'s leisure and lifestyle communities, said the number of Filipinos leaving the Philippines to work abroad continues to grow at around 12.5 percent.

"Although this is really a sad phenomenon, this indicates however that the amount of dollars earned and remitted back home continues to grow. Rather than slacking off, therefore, we in ALI feel that we have only mined what we believe is the tip of the large OFW market."

Danilo E. Ignacio, general manager of Robinsons Land Corp.—high rise building division, said RLC is confident that the OFW investments in real estate will remain.

Owning their home

Jose EB Antonio, chair of Century Properties Group and Meridien Development Group, said that 30 percent of the income of OFWs in general is spent on housing, whether to buy a new home, fix present homes or pay for rent.

"The quest for the Filipino dream of owning their home is foremost in the minds of OFWs. It is also worthwhile to note that the average income of an OFW has increased, as more white collar workers and technical people are working abroad," Antonio said.

Soriano observed that historically, spikes in OFW remittances occur every middle and end of the year.

"However, with the continuous deployment of new OFWs in existing and new geographical markets and the increase in remittance month on month, we can expect a steady stream of real estate business from the sector all throughout the year," he said.

Añonuevo estimated that ALI overseas sales accounted for nearly 20 to 25 percent of the total sales volume generated by the ALI parent company, including subsidiaries such as Community Innovations Inc and LPHI. She added that recognizing this large potential, ALI has established Ayala Land International Sales Inc.

Ignacio said that RLC markets selected projects internationally. "Revenues generated from our international marketing efforts account for a substantial portion of our sales. We thus intend to pursue building this segment," he said.

Advice to developers

ERA Real Estate, a multinational real estate service provider that manages Eastwood, expects to grow its OFW portfolio from 15 percent in 2005 to 25 percent this year.

"The industry posted an average OFW contribution of 20 to 25 percent. My advice to developers is for them to focus on increasing their OFW portfolio by an additional 15 percent this year," Soriano said.

Cultural center resembles villages where Kanak tribes live

AMAZING STRUCTURES

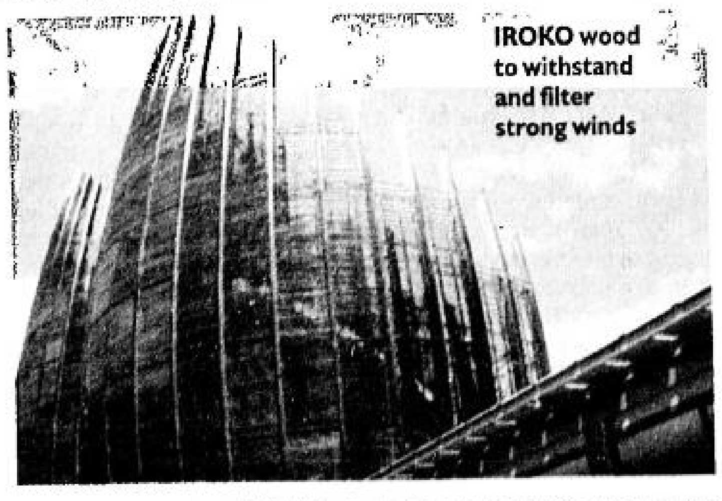
BUILT TO HONOR NEW CALEdonia's Kanak culture, the Jean Marie Tjibaou Cultural Center has received much admiration as its Italian architect, the famous Renzo Piano.

The center resembles the villages in which the Kanak tribes live. It is composed of 10 "great houses," each with a different size and function. A long, gently curving enclosed walkway links and winds through the series of "huts."

Piano took advantage of the center's proximity to the Pacific Ocean by using a natural system of ventilation. The outer façade of the huts which face the ocean use horizontal wood slats made of *iroko* wood, a type of indestructible wood that not only can withstand cyclone-force winds but also filter the wind into an inner façade made of glass louvers. These glass louvers allow the wind to flow freely through the building for ventilation by opening and closing depending on wind speed.

The Jean Marie Tjibaou Cultural Center was named after Jean Marie Tjibaou, philosopher and former leader of the Kanak Socialist Liberation Front who was assassinated in New Caledonia in 1989.

Dianne M. Villafuerte



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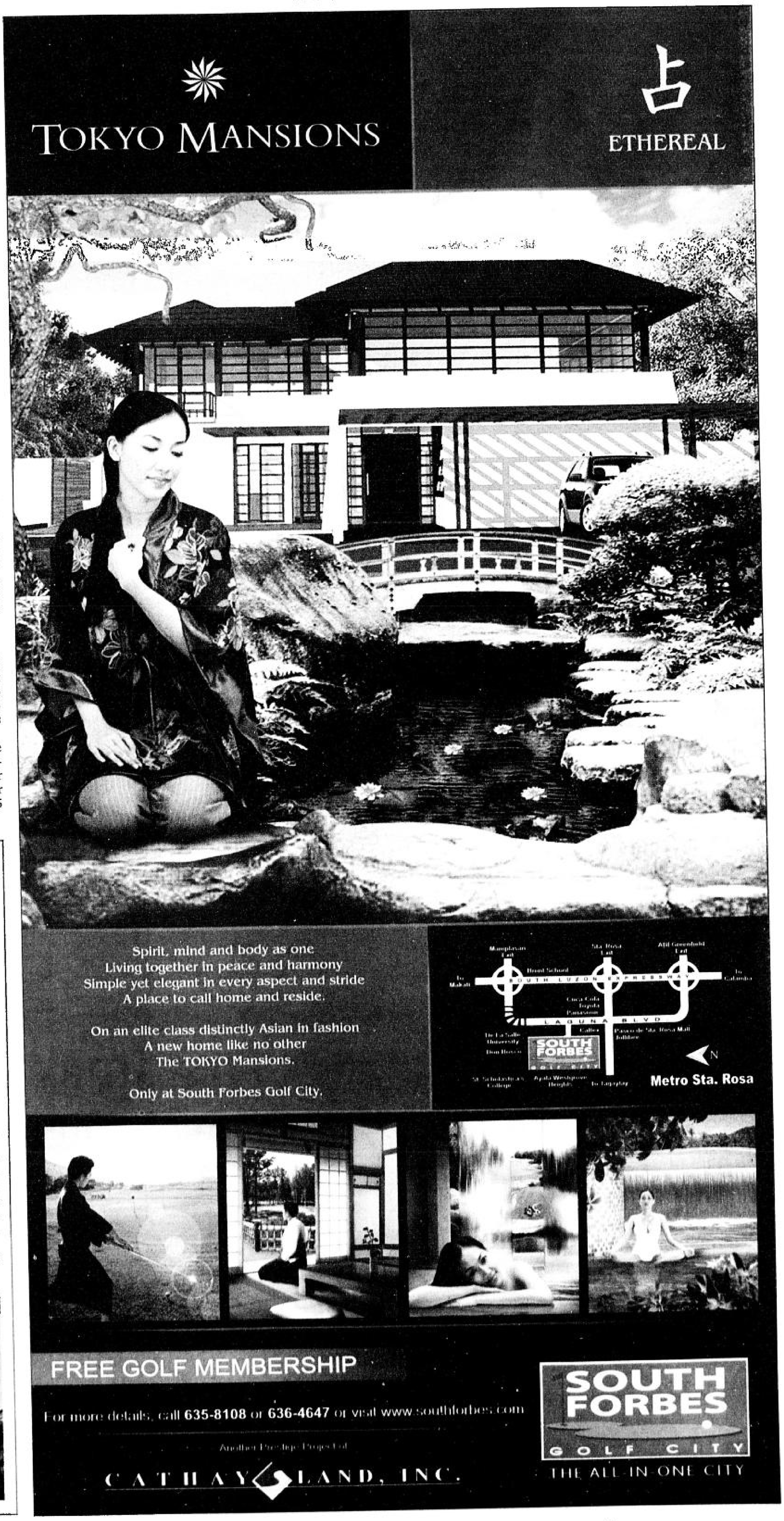

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Green architecture and crime prevention

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

WHAT'S THE FIRST WORD THAT comes to mind when you hear "crime prevention"? Naturally, it's the police or security guard. Few people realize however that architects and other designers are in large part also responsible for the security of many homes and offices. This is a major concern of green architecture, a newly revived discipline that protects the environment while improving the quality of life and promoting sustainable development.

Green architecture can lead to a reduction in the incidence of crime. It can also help reduce vandalism and other forms of property destruction. Buildings that are improperly designed are easily vandalized and destroyed, needing more replacement materials, resources and energy that further deplete precious reserves.

In some communities, as crime and vandalism escalate, the buildings and the community in general become unhealthy places for people to live and work. As a result, people move out to safer areas leaving behind buildings that continue to deteriorate. Through green architecture most of these concerns will be minimized or avoided.

After all, green buildings are designed for longevity and ease in maintenance. They are also healthy buildings that contribute to the well being of the community.

How green architecture helps

The way houses and buildings are designed, and just as important, how they are built in relation to each other, play a major role in making communities safe and secure. For example, in urban areas, many green planners and developers now realize the benefits of having a healthy mix of buildings with different uses in the same area. This means residential buildings integrated with commercial buildings in a mixed zone. This type of planning encourages 24-hour activities seven days a week as people move in and out of offices, coffee shops, boutiques, convenience stores, etc. This is in contrast to deserted, unsafe places within office building districts that are normally abandoned after office hours. In many cases these buildings have blank or windowless walls on the ground floor.

To make buildings and communities really secure, however, it will take more than just proper site planning to do the job. Green architectural design and landscaping together with crime prevention strategies must be adopted at the early stages of the design process.

Increased visibility

The first element involves designing to increase visibility. It has been proven that criminals are not likely to act when they know that their actions will be witnessed. For example, in business establishments, keeping windows free of advertising posters and ads allows people to observe what is going on inside business establishments. Through careful design this will make it easy to spot a criminal at work. Similarly, residential homes with tall concrete fences are at higher risk from intruders. It is safer to use a combination of concrete and wrought iron grills in fences for more visibility.

For buildings it is advisable to use open type stairways to allow users to be seen and be heard in case assistance is needed.

In parks and big open spaces, shelters and observation decks should overlook trail paths to allow park visitors to see and be seen.

A favorite spot for criminals to hide are overgrown trees and shrubs. These areas must be maintained regularly.

In some cases, the best way to secure a place is through the use of devices such as closed-circuit television, guard posts and security patrols.

Control of movement

The second element involves directing the movement or path of people as they enter and exit buildings. By properly locating entrance doors, fences, landscaping and lighting, people will not wander into restricted areas and more important, it will convey a perception of risk to an intruder.

This can be done by using fencing material or landscaping to prevent or discourage entrance into nonsecured areas. Another way is by limiting the number of entry points in a building.

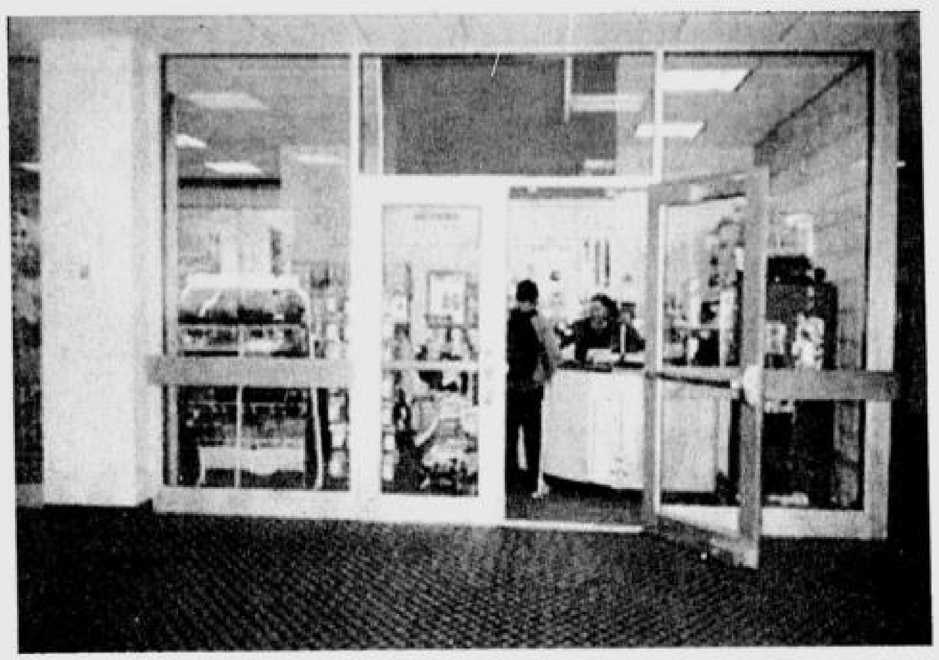
An effective way to control the movement of people within premises is by using locking mechanisms such as a double cylinder deadbolt or electronic security card system.

Boundary definition

The third element involves the use of site features that help define ownership like fences, sidewalks and landscaping. In large housing communities, fences help control access to the site and define property lines. Other features could be signboards that show the name of the business. Parking areas can also provide signs of ownership.

Landscaping can also be used as a natural divider separating open and restricted areas. Driveways can be finished with colorful tiles to set them off visually from the street.

The idea is not always to provide physical barriers but instead to define boundaries and tell intruders that the property is off limits to trespassers.



IN THIS store, the uncluttered windows allow the cashier to be seen from the outside, thus discouraging criminals from robbing the place.
CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

Maintenance

Overgrown shrubs and weeds clearly show that there is no one in the property to maintain the area and this could send signals to criminals to burglarize the place. Another telltale sign is old nonoperating vehicles that are permanently parked in the garage or roadside.

On the other hand, a clean building with a well-maintained landscape without trash strewn around the site help make people feel safe.

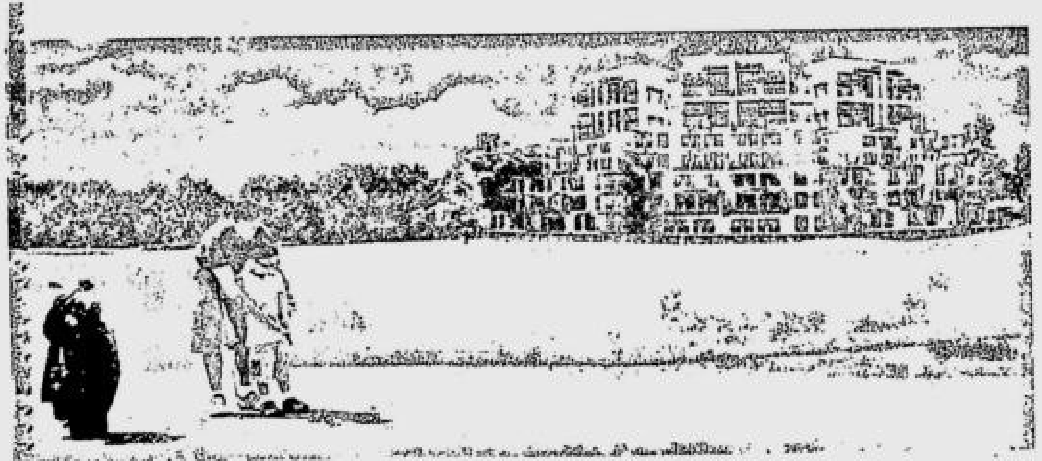
It is advisable to plant shrubs that do not grow taller than three feet. Use low-maintenance building materials for the construction of the buildings.

Good lighting is a very effective crime deterrent. Many areas in the city have benefited from the bright lights of convenience stores that have sprouted all over the metropolis in recent years. In several places, they have reduced criminality and fear.

Security lights that automatically turn on at night and off at dawn are effective devices that help prevent crime around homes and buildings. It is also advisable to use long-life energy-efficient lamps for easy maintenance.

Green architecture alone will not be enough to reduce crime. It will take a lot of effort, resources and the collective will of the government and members of the community before crime can be effectively reduced. However, we can start right now, by designing our buildings and communities with crime preventive green measures.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.



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In the same manner, non-golfers also love touring different hotels and resorts. Each exciting locale, beach or spa offers a different ambiance and set of amenities for one's enjoyment. Meditation areas, unique massage and skin treatments as well as yoga sessions are offered to soothe the mind.

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Golfers will score a hole-in-one 42 times with discounted green and other fees in golf courses across four continents. Imagine putting for a birdie at the Nirwana Bali Golf Club of the tropical paradise of Bali in Asia. Or score an eagle at the Moonah Links in Melbourne, Australia. Post another hole-in-one at the Golf and Country Club Fleesensee in Europe. Better yet, win a tournament at the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco, North America.

Surely, this is one opportunity not to be missed for those aspiring to join the ranks of Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Michelle Wie!

As for nongolfers, there are many things in store for you as well. Depending on the location, each of the 42 IMG Sports Club affiliates features top amenities such as massage services, spa, squash, tennis, banquet facilities and restaurants.

Jetsetters who love traveling to the US West Coast can play golf at the Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort in Palm Springs, California, with relatives and friends. Over at the East Coast, you can play doubles tennis at The Fox Valley Club in New York. If Europe is in your itinerary, it's covered as well. You can play squash at the Golf and Country Club Fleesensee while you're touring Germany.

World-class golf resort city

The free membership to the South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club and its accompanying free jetsetter privilege through IMG Sports Club can be easily obtained for every lot and condominium unit purchase at the South Forbes Golf City in Metro Sta. Rosa.

Touted as the country's first world-class fully integrated golf resort city, South Forbes features distinct architectural themes. Take a pick among the Mediterranean Villas, the resort-inspired residences at Bali Mansions, and the Modern Zen sanctuaries at Tokyo Mansions. Investors can also choose a prime unit with a view of the South Forbes fairways at Golf View Terraces or experience a convenient lifestyle at the Singapore-themed Esplanade.

To know more about the jetsetting lifestyle and to conduct a personal or group tour of the prestige projects at South Forbes, call 635-8108 or 636-4647 or click www.southforbes.com.

IF YOU touring the US West Coast, then you can play golf at the Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort in Palm Springs, California, with your relatives and friends.

SOUTH Forbes member-residents will soon tee off at the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco, near the famed Golden Gate Bridge.

Brittany masterplanning creates 'lifescapes'

IN THE PROPERTY SECTOR nowadays, masterplanning is essential for all development projects, particularly high-end residential communities in which maverick Brittany Corp. specializes. In simple terms, a masterplan addresses the needs of end-users, as well as challenges and opportunities in the overall environment, by setting broad guidelines and parameters for all construction and development.

Any work to be done is first reviewed to ensure consistency with the masterplan, which guides where facilities and structures are to be located. The second link in a sequence of processes that starts with site acquisition, masterplanning is followed by the development of infrastructures and products, marketing and sales, project completion, and finally the upkeep of the desired environment for the completed development.

Successful masterplanning for a residential community results in housing, leisure, commercial and other relevant applications developed within a timeframe, with their intended level of quality sustained over time.

"A key element of our masterplanning, perhaps the most crucial, is the vision that drives the creation and sustainability of each community," says Jing Serrano, president and CEO of Brittany. "Of course the other factors that determine the success of masterplanning are important. These include the team of people who are involved, the physical and natural surroundings, communication and transportation requirements, and the demand for flexibility and innovativeness in planning and execution.

Total 'lifescape'

"But first, Brittany's masterplanning starts with a vision of what living the good life can be for the residents of a community," Serrano says, "it's about being sensitive to how people want to enjoy life to the fullest. So our masterplanning sets out with a vision leading to the creation of a total "lifescape" for each community, a complete environment with architectural, spatial, emotional and psychological dimensions, which did not previously exist elsewhere, that brings a new quality of life experiences for residents, enhancing their enjoyment of living day after day."

According to her, carefully selected themes inspired by some of the world's most desired destinations uniquely enrich Brittany's masterplanning, leading to well-planned communities that go one step further by creating distinctive "lifescapes" which please the senses and reward mind, body and spirit.

Thematic influences

"The application of thematic influences for each community—whether elegant Italian for Portofino, San Francisco neo-Victorian for Brittany Bay, Swiss for Cross-Winds, Caribbean for The Islands, or country Tuscan for Vita Toscana—is not intended to imitate the place that inspired it," Serrano says. "Rather, these themes are evocative, complementing the life experiences of residents who are cultured, sophisticated and well-traveled. Brittany residents are privileged people, 'citizens of the world.'

"In the development of Brittany communities, we are also conscious of realities like shortfalls in transport and travel infrastructures in the metropolis. Therefore, access and location as to place of work or business, and facilities for education and health care, as well as other needs like shopping, leisure and recreation are important," Serrano says.

"Also, our masterplanning ensures that to the best extent feasible, Brittany communities are established on an economic and physical scale that ensures they are self-sustaining, self-contained in serving residents' requirements, according to the concept of each community," she adds.

"Apart from vision in masterplanning, Brittany has the proven commitment, reliability and resolve to deliver on the promise of each community, enabling residents to savor a 'lifescape' that is both inspired and inspiring," Serrano concludes.

First Imax theater in RP raises gigantic screen

MOVIEGOERS IN MANILA ARE ONE step closer to the Imax experience. Dec. 16 was a big day for the Philippines as the screen for the upcoming San Miguel Coca-Cola Imax Theater was raised at the Mall of Asia. At exactly 21,955 meters in height, the Imax screen in this theater is by far the biggest screen in the Philippines and one of the very biggest in the world.

The screen raising is one of the final stages in the completion of the Imax Theater. Once it opens its doors to the public, the San Miguel Coca Cola IMAX Theater will change the way people in the Philippines experience movies. The Imax experience is the most powerful and immersive cinematic experience in the world, with images of unsurpassed size, sharpness and clarity complemented by up to 14,000 watts of multichannel digital surround sound.

The Mall of Asia will be one of the largest in Asia and the world. The size and grandeur of the Imax Theater lobby will be unrivaled in the Philippines, making it the place for film launches and special big events. With the recent agreement partnering SM, San Miguel and Coca-Cola, the huge Imax Theater is planned for many upcoming product launches and special events for their customers.

Reaching as high as an eight-story building, the Imax screen was pulled up by hand by approximately 20 workers hanging over a railing at the top. The sheer size is overwhelming in the 635 seat Imax Theater, but movie goers can expect more than just size in this theater.

Imax's larger than life experience is made possible with a 15/70 film format, 10 times the size of regular 35 mm film, a specially designed screen that is slightly curved to reach beyond the audience's peripheral vision and a powerful multichannel digital surround sound system. The unique film format, projection technology, and theater design combine to make for the most immersive movie experience available.

The San Miguel Coca Cola Imax Theater will show both Hollywood blockbusters converted to the Imax format using Imax DMR (digital remastering) technology, as well as original 15/70 films in both 2D and Imax 3D. Hollywood blockbusters transformed into Imax's format for 2006 include the new "Poseidon," "Superman Returns," "Happy Feet" (in Imax 3D only at the San Miguel Coca Cola Imax Theater) and "Ant Bully" (also in Imax 3D).

A slogan for Imax is Think Big. In Manila, it's going to be Think Really Big!

Developers: Buyers immune to political noises

RESIGN!
REMAIN!

By Tessa R. Salazar

SICK AND TIRED OF OF NON-stop political bickering in the country? There's a sector that doesn't seem to mind the political circus.

Top real estate developers and consulting firms say that the Philippines remains an attractive investment option despite political "noises."

Says ERA Philippines country president and CEO Eric Soriano: "We have been immune to the perennial political noise. As long as the dynamics in the political structure are done in a peaceful and democratic way, it will not be a hindrance to the real estate business."

ERA Philippines is a real estate consulting firm whose parent company is based in Singapore. Its local clientele includes Megaworld Properties.

Marivic Añonuevo, vice president and head of Ayala Land Inc.'s leisure and lifestyle communities, agrees with the observation. She says that as ALI's 2005 performance proves, the buying public has largely discounted the political climate.

Añonuevo says that while there was an initial hesitation to invest in fixed assets because of the perceived political volatility, the public has learned to "live with the noise as they move on with their lives."

"There is real growth in demand in the OFW market but we have also seen that the local market is also getting back its confidence in investing in real estate as evidenced by our very good sales performance in 2005 despite the political noises in the background," she says.

Añonuevo adds that with the opening up of the country's economy to globalization, ALI believes that foreign capital, not just from OFWs but also from interested entities, will see Philippine real estate as an attractive investment.

Danilo E. Ignacio, general manager for Robinsons Land Corp.'s high-rise buildings division, says political turmoil has been a "mainstay in the Philippines," adding that through the years Robinsons Land has weathered a number of political issues that had beset the country.

He adds that the housing demand "remains real and sustains the industry growth."

"In recent months, the overall public sobriety toward new controversies has served to sustain the sales performance of most developers," Ignacio says.

Strengthening of the peso

Añonuevo believes that for local buyers, the strengthening of the peso, plus T-bill rates going down would mean lower loan interest rates which, she says, would "make it very attractive to pursue real estate loans."

"It's not just the favorable exchange rate but also the fact that a more liberal finance environment enables innovation in supporting financial instruments," Añonuevo says. She cites the soon-to-be launched exchangeable bonds, which, she says, is one way by which ALI is inventing new instruments to enable more segments of the market to purchase ALI-quality properties.

Ignacio says that in a strong peso environment, OFWs tend to defer purchasing as their dollars have relatively less purchasing power.

"The opposite is true for local buyers, though, who tend to invest when the peso is strong. This complementary economic dynamics provides developers with sustainable and regular sources of sales," he says.

Ignacio adds that insofar as developers are concerned, a strong peso may help lower construction costs, which may translate to more affordable products for buyers.

Soriano forecasts that at first, the appreciating peso may tend not to favor the OFW sector as they would be getting fewer pesos from their dollar conversion.

"However, the price of consumer goods will inevitably go down due to a stronger peso, translating into more savings on the part of the OFW families to buy real estate," he says.

Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of Century Properties Group and Meridien Development Group, meanwhile, says it is important to note that the Philippine real estate market cycle was reversed in 2004, ending a seven-year drop in prices and volume of transactions.

"The market is now in positive territory and is very buoyant. Most Grade A developers experienced a 200 percent increase in volume of transactions in 2005 over 2004," he says.

Antonio adds that most of the development projects are in the residential sector and are focused on middle- to upper-income levels.

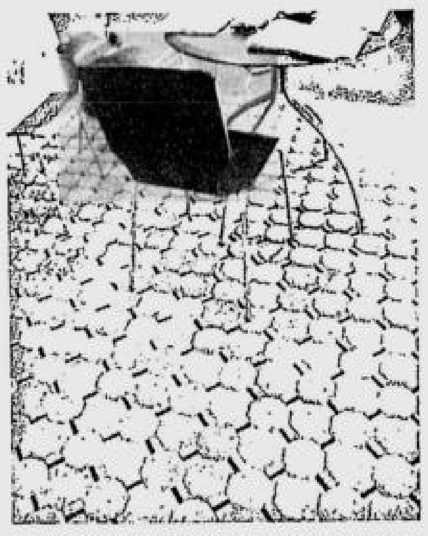
MGS porous, pervious pavers ideal for surface drainage

A LINE OF INNOVATIVE AND COST-effective products to address the common problem of water drainage in outdoor areas is now available from MGS Corp., one of the country's leading providers of integrated construction materials and services that include ready-mix concrete, premium homebuilding products, housing construction, land development, trading and distribution.

MGS offers pervious and porous pavers—the first to be made locally, with licensed technology from the Besser Co. in the United States—for economical solutions to surface drainage that also open up opportunities for creating visually pleasing designs. Since rainfall in the Philippines is often a year-round phenomenon, these pervious and porous pavers are finding great relevance and utility among architects, landscapers, homeowners and other end-users who are concerned about maximizing the usability of outdoor spaces.

Porous pavers

Introduced locally by MGS at Worldbex in March 2005 and at Philconstruct in November 2005, the porous pavers have a composition similar to dried and hardened sponge that actually allows water to pass through them into the earth underneath, thus providing value-added by facilitating drainage. Flooding is minimized, if not eliminated altogether, and water does not have to be channeled into drainage canals.



VARIOUS designs can be achieved by interlocking MGS pervious pavers while retaining its interstitial openings to allow water filtration.

Acting like a filter, these porous pavers have the added benefit of keeping debris in place for convenient disposal, otherwise, debris would flow into and possibly eventually fill up drainage systems. With their different colors and shapes, porous pavers offer a range of esthetic possibilities and can be used for driveways, gardens, pathways and other outdoor spaces.

Porous pavers allow cost savings for smaller outdoor areas. Since there is no need to build storm drains, homeowners can save on costs in the long run by not having to install drainage pipes and the like. At a cost of P490 per sq.m., porous pavers offer the same benefits and quality as regular pavers, while being a handy solution for drainage concerns.

Pervious pavers

For outdoor construction projects where surface finishes need to be smoother than those of porous pavers, MGS has developed pervious pavers, which are regular pavers, with the difference that these are ingeniously shaped. This particular shape for the pervious pavers, based on careful research, allows them to interlock into various designs while retaining interstitial openings that enable surface water to seep through efficiently. The shape is the only one which has been found to allow the most effective water infiltration.

The pervious pavers are available in various colors that provide a myriad range of visual accents, and like porous pavers, are ideal for outdoor constructions such as driveways, gardens, pathways and other landscapes. As a functional and visual option, pebbles can be used to fill in the interstitial spaces between pervious pavers.

For inquiries, log on to www.mgs.com.ph.

Pioneer Pointe ahead of construction schedule

PIONEER POINTE, THE 28-STORY residential condominium project of Filinvest Alabang,Inc. (FAI) on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong, is one month ahead of its construction schedule.

J.D. Bernardo Engineering Construction Inc. (JDBEC) recently reported to FAI project team head for Pioneer Pointe Dom Valdecañas that it has finished close to 17 percent of construction work from the targeted 12.5 percent for October.

Ahead of schedule

"The 4.5 percent positive difference, based on the contractor's master bar chart and S-curve schedule, means that in terms of work time, we are approximately one month ahead of schedule," Valdecañas said. "We expect to achieve 24.73 percent completion by the end of November."

The project's first concrete pouring was in August 2005. The main reason for JDBEC being ahead of schedule was the early concreting of the lower ground level, the upper ground level, parking level 1 and part of parking level 2.

JDBEC is expected to immediately start work on the tower units, with 25 stories allotted for residential units. "*Full blast na kami* (We're going full blast)," said the FAI executive. Topping off is scheduled for the third quarter of 2006, while turnover of units will be in the last quarter of 2007.

Amenities

Amenities of the project are a lobby/reception area, function room with pantry, swimming pool, sun deck and children's play area. Other features are two levels of office spaces, 24-hour security station, closed circuit TV (CCTV), two-way audio intercom system, two high-speed passenger lifts, individual mailboxes, fire alarm and sprinkler system, secure vehicular entrance and exit, underground reservoir and overhead water tank, standby generator and garbage chute.

Apart from being a convenient home, Pioneer Pointe also makes an ideal company staff house or vacation home for out-of-towners. Buyers can also turn their unit into an income-generating investment should they decide to lease it out.

"The condominium's central location makes it attractive to the rental market, so owners are sure to get excellent returns on their investment," Valdecañas said. "And with Mandaluyong City on its way to becoming the 'Tiger City' of the future, property values can only appreciate in the years to come," he added. Interested parties can visit www.pioneer-pointe.com for details or set an appointment to view model units by calling 687-1155.

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Land Area : 34,485 sqm.

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- Ready to sell 81 residential lots with an average cut of 60 sqm. (7,500 sqm. total)
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- with 30,000 gallon overhead tank
- with right of way
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Undeveloped Portion : 23,640 sqm.
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- Small forest of 10 year old trees

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- 300 meters from Aguinaldo Highway
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Floor Price : P18,000,000
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To secure a copy of "PURCHASE PROPOSAL FORM" and complete bid guidelines, please visit us at
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and look for
Ms. Diane or Ms. Jemai

WANT TO VIEW A CEZANNE?

Brittany Corporation unveils its latest masterpiece model home–Cezanne at Courtyards II of Portofino.

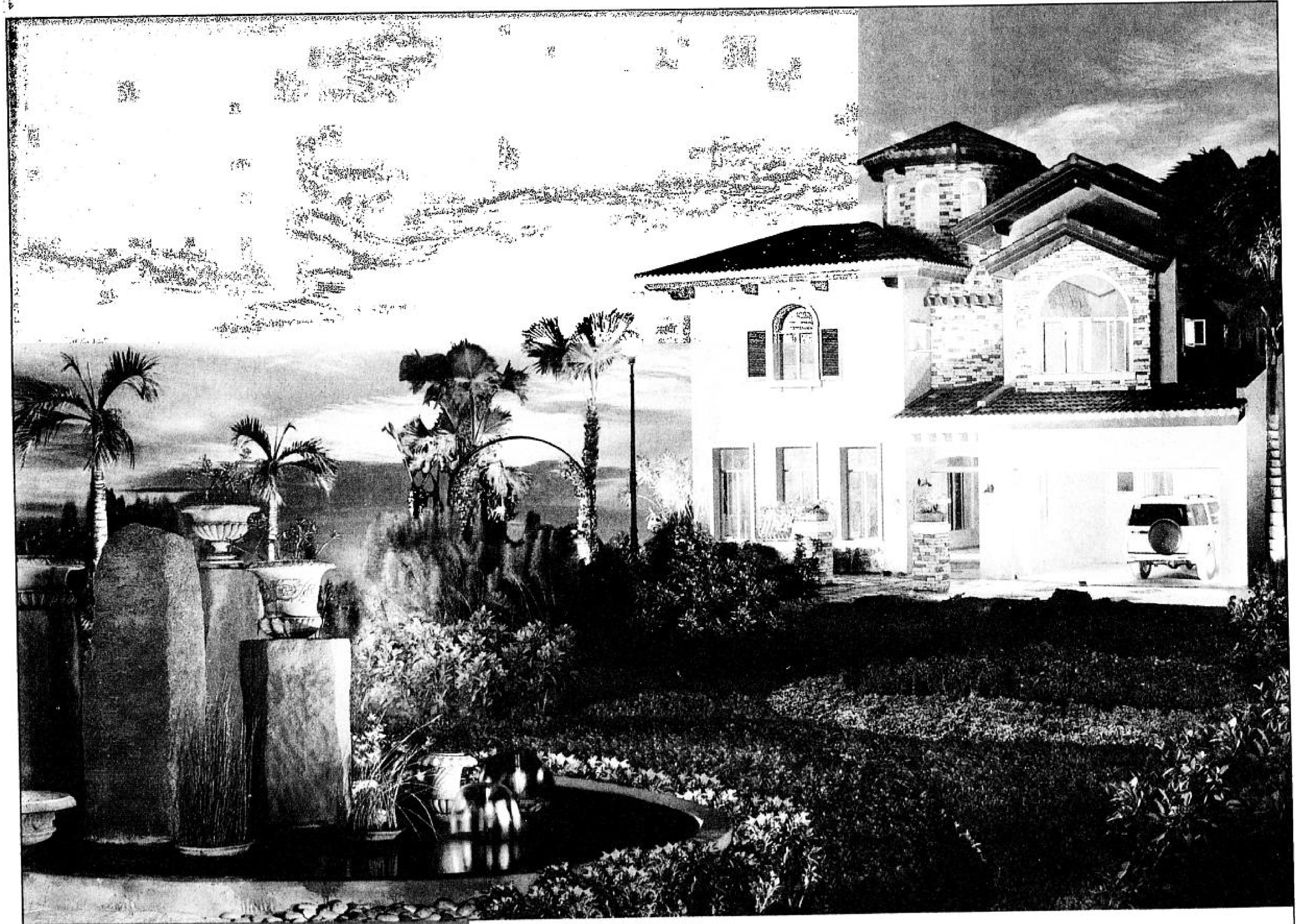
The latest in the series of courtyard homes and inspired by one of the world's master artists, Cezanne, like its predecessors, Rembrandt and Raphael, features a quaint indoor courtyard that offers the benefits of the outdoors right inside your home.

Cezanne has a floor area of 193 sq.m. and a minimum lot area of 224 sq.m. The 2-storey, 3-bedroom courtyard home efficiently lays out the living areas around the courtyard. With Cezanne, you have two layout options on the first floor. One option offers a *casita* or guest room. The other layout has an anteroom or receiving room. Architectural details are distinctively Italian Old World with sun-drenched colors, large windows and a cupola at the main entrance. Cezanne, with its indoor courtyard, is surrounded by grand courtyards. The courtyard-within-a-courtyard concept is uniquely Brittany's, implemented to an unprecedented scale in the Philippines.

The courtyard collection represents a vital part of the grand masterplan of Portofino, involving world-inspired, uniquely-themed homes and enclaves with facilities and amenities in a location that provides everything one needs for a better quality of life.

The initial Courtyards of Portofino quickly sold and the demand for courtyard homes is still rising. To answer the continuing demand, Brittany offers Courtyards II of Portofino. With Courtyards II of Portofino, you too can have your own courtyard home.

View a masterpiece. See the Cezanne at Courtyards II of Portofino For a Property Preview, call 850 6986 or 850 2868 or click www.brittany.com.ph



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The Custom Home Sites, the Courtyard Homes and *WideLots*™, the 15-hectare commercial complex, the well-rounded amenities, and its closeness to commercial and business areas, schools, hospitals, and major roads, expresses the art of living the grand life in Portofino.

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Super!Countdown

3 day 'til
'til day!

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Poke her

The ins and outs of Katrina Halili page C2

Gino de la Paz is no longer a 'poker' virgin page D1

The secret world of Zines page D2

Jessica Zafra, Danton Remoto, RJ Ledesma, Kooky Tuason and other stars of Pinoy podcasting page C3

Produced by JAMES, PEPE and MILAN
Photography JENNA GENIO
Styling TINA DANIAC
Makeup XENG ZULUETA and JIGS MAYUGA for Shu Uemura
Cover stars KATRINA HALILI and the BLOOMFIELDS

Super! Selections

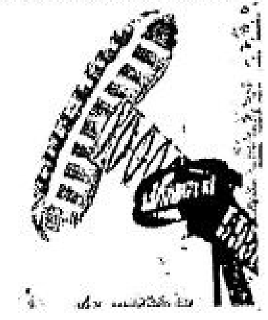
Must-watch: The Chronicles of Narnia. A talking lion, an evil witch, a magical wardrobe, four adventure-seeking kids, fauns and centaurs and a big battle scene. We say bring on the popcorn.

Must-read: Memoirs of a Geisha. If you've read it before, read it again and refresh your mind before the movie version is shown.

Must-visit: Eurostar Carnival. Celebrate your inner child this weekend.

Must-eat: Zen's Sakura Roll. Even non-sashimi lovers would love it.

Must-listen: Alanis Morissette's The Collection. Re-visit her angst with this CD of her hits and her favorites.



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better choices | better life

ALL IN

By James Gabrillo, Pepe Diokno and David Milan

TINA DANIAC SWIMSUITS, A BIG OPEN FIELD (the one inside a university in Diliman), and a few minutes walk to get to a real working electrical outlet—and a hot hot young star… at seven in the morning. Normally, you'd think, "this is going to be a frigging hard shoot." But it wasn't. Thank you, barbecue… rather, thank you, Katrina Halili.

Katrina is beautiful—in or out of the slinky swimsuits she wore. And while she was being caked by Shu Uemura makeup, and stylist Tina Daniac was all over her (not in the way you may want to envision)—she talked about how busy her schedule's turning out to be. Week after week, bookings and shootings are coming from left to right… and in front. Now, most young stars would say that with annoyance. She was excited. Seems like the career of this former Starstruck avenger is starting to create it's own bright path. We are sure she'll have a great, eye-popping way ahead of her. We also included her as one of Super's 26 to watch out for this year. Double excitement.

And no, Super doesn't have gossip writers—we didn't scribble down her schedule. (Or… did we?) but it says a lot about who she is. She's game and doesn't have qualms that go with other young actresses like her. Katrina Halili's doing things with gusto. And that's something we need in this country. Young people who want to get out there—and do what they love. (Also, what we want—more young people ready to stand in the middle of a garden/football field in a swimsuit. Amen.)

This Super shoot was a great way to start of 2006. Here's to new, vibrant, people who want something, and are taking steps to get it. Here's to working, not slacking and criticizing. Here's to being like ants. ("We're not Filipino! We're ants!") Oh wait. But you get our point.

Please follow the following instructions: 1) Look at the picture to the right. 2) Try, just try, to say something. (Pretend you're speechless—though you probably don't need to.) Now, that's why, we should just let Katrina talk.

The thing about fame is that… You get noticed everytime.

The thing I love most about what I do is… I earn and get to buy things I wanted without my parents' support.

People might be surprised to know that… I'm approachable and a very friendly person.

The most important thing I've ever learned is… to love myself more than anything else.

I wish when I started off I've been told… to choose the persons I could trust.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that… (it's not really that bad but) I got to invite a beggar on stage while having a show but I didn't know how to get him down without offending him.

And what taught this to me was… it's part of my job and I do it to entertain and make people happy.

The secret to happiness is… having true friends and family beside me, doing things I want without hesitation.

My best ever outfit consisted of a… two-piece swimwear.

My Super!, Saturday night consists of… just having a great time with friends at home.

The soundtrack to my life would include… "Can't Take That Away" by Mariah Carey

If I was invisible for a day, I would… go to my favorite places I'd usually go to when I wasn't in show biz yet.

The thing that makes me most angry is… people interfering with my decisions in life.

If I was the most powerful person on earth… I'd give equal opportunities to every person on earth so there will be no rich or poor people.,

The best thing about family is that… you can always turn to them when the world turns its back on you.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say… we will surely miss Black Darna.

If money was no option… this world would be a better place to live in.

When I retire, I would like to… go back to my hometown and manage my own business.

The world would be a much better place if… money was no option.

My hero is… my mother, because without her there'll be no KATRINA HALILI.

The thing that makes my life worth living is… my work, family, and friends

My greatest hope for the future is… to reach my dreams and achieve my goals in life.

The worst thing somebody said about me was that… I didn't deserve to be in FHM.

My favorite moments are when… I go home to Palawan and just enjoy the scenery, nice ambience, and beautiful beaches.

My most embarrassing moment was when… I shot my very first pictorial while wearing swimsuits!!

I'm saving up for… my future.

My biggest indulgence is… Living at the top of a hill in a resort farm.

My current state of mind is… at peace

If someone would ply me in my biopic it would be… myself

My 5 favorite words are… *adik! chuva! chenes! ganon talaga! inggitera ka!*

I aspire to be… Successful and a good actress someday.

PHOTOS BY JENNA GENIO
STYLING BY TINA DANAC
MAKEUP BY JIGS MAYUGA AND XENG ZULUETA FOR SHU UEMURA

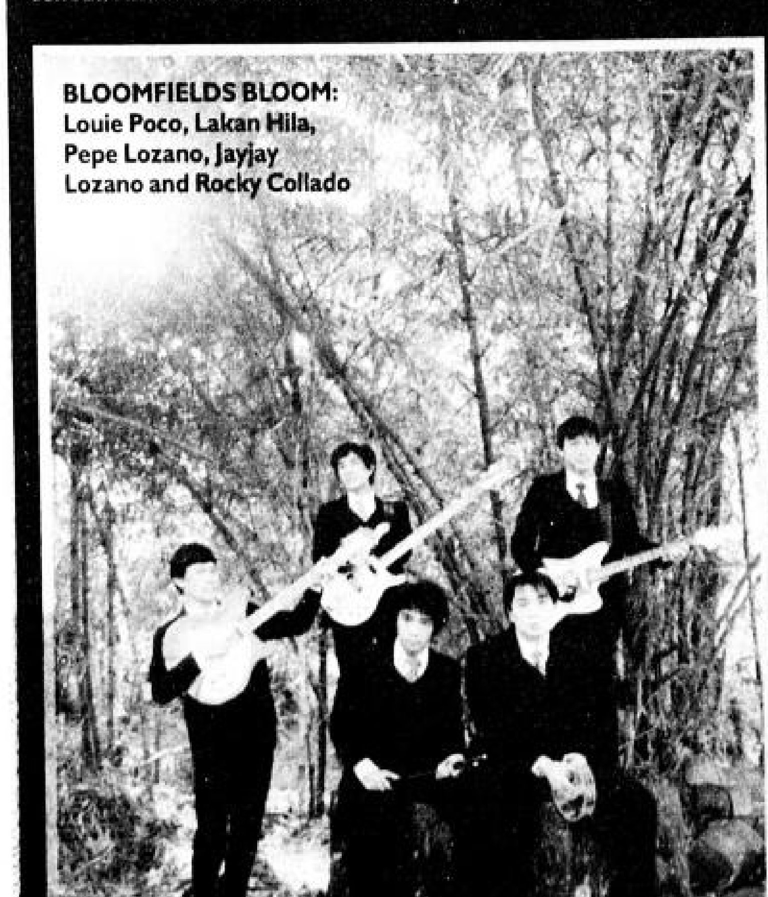
Rocking with their groovy tunes . . . and their moptops

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

SO THEY DRESS ALIKE. IT MUST come from all the years they've spent with each other. The Bloomfields is a band that started playing together in grade school music classes at La Salle Greenhills. Yeah, they've been friends for that long—and their friendship is one thing they hold dearer than their music.

Their music is 60s. But they didn't graduate eons ago—the Bloomfields are still in school. And we're sure more and more people are seeing (and hearing) how they make 60s music cool.

They're 60s cool and loving it



BLOOMFIELDS BLOOM: Louie Poco, Lakan Hila, Pepe Lozano, Jayjay Lozano and Rocky Collado

If you've seen them (if you haven't we suggest you do), you'll agree, they put on a good show. Even the most un-musically inclined llama would start dancing once they play. They bring tons of super energy on stage and share it with whoever's listening. And they have enough power to make people listen.

But the Bloomfields are more than just their unique cool orchestrated suits, shoes, and hairdos. Or their charm. What's great about the Bloomfields is their heart—for music, and performing. *Ayos!*

Rocky of Bloomfields answers the Super survey for his band.

The thing about fame is that… It's what everybody thinks it is. It's sometimes fun, sometimes cool, sometimes annoying, sometimes it gets to your head, and all that. It's like what you see on TV or hear about from rumors and stuff.

The thing I love most about what I do is… The thought that this is what we've always wanted to do and that we're actually doing it. Kinda makes a guy feel good.

People might be surprised to know that… We didn't hear the music we play from our parents. We just discovered them on our own.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that… In our experience with the band and in dealing with other people, it's to expect that there will be those who'll try to bring you down but you should always take the higher road and not stoop to their level.

I wish when I started off I've been told to… be wary of who to trust.

The worst thing that ever happened to us was that… we went all the way to the province for a gig and ended up playing 6 hours after we arrived with no food, money or a room to stay in.

And what this taught us was… Don't be afraid if something let's you down. It's not the end of the world.

The secret to happiness is… to accept the fact that things sometimes go wrong and that we shouldn't get too hung up on it.

Our Super! Saturday night consists of… rock and roll parties (we're usually out on gigs on Saturdays)

The soundtrack to our life would include… "Something Good" by Herman's Hermits.

If I was invisible for a day, I would be… incredibly naughty.

The thing that makes me most angry is… when they run out of donuts in the school cafeteria. Haha. Nothing really.

If I was the most powerful person on earth… I'd start world peace and end world hunger. Or get a life time supply of ice cream. Depends on how much power we're talking about.

The best thing about family is that… they go to most of my gigs. At least 5 of them at a time.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say… boo hoo hoo.

When I retire, I would like… a wife, kids, pension and a nice computer.

The world would be a much better place if… we had a 30 hour day and still require just 8 hours of sleep. More time to work and play.

My hero is… Gene Krupa.

The thing that makes my life worth living is… It isn't just one thing. It's everything. But if I had to choose, I guess it's the band.

My greatest hope for the future is… for us (the Bloomfields) to stay together. Whether bandmates or just buddies.

The worst thing somebody said about me was… I'm not supposed to say any profanities so I'll put it mildly—an arrogant pr*ck.

My favorite moments are when… Me and the guys are on stage laughing about something.

I'm saving up for… computer upgrades.

My biggest indulgence is… caffeine.

My current state of mind is… contemplative (because of all the questions in this survey).

My 5 favorite words are… Cool. Yep. Astig. Hey. Later.

I aspire to be… a better musician.

HOST Bianca Gonzales

THE MEN OF MPH. Art Ilano, Jayvee Fernandez and Adel Gabot at Ditoy Aguila's studio

GET FIT with Chinggay Andrada

THE AUTHOR at the Youth station

THE PODCAST listening station at Red Box.

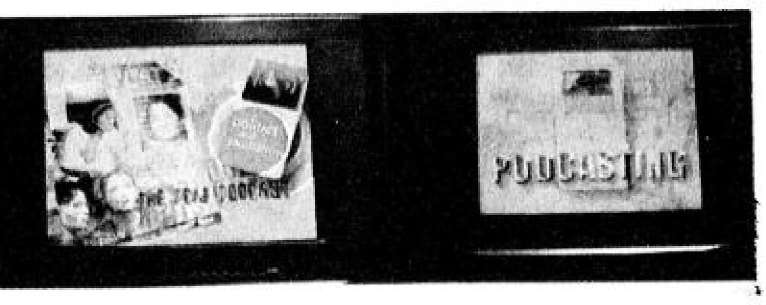
POET WITH PASSION. Kooky Tuason

RJ LEDESMA with friends

MOMMY DEAREST. Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan

RED BOX's Paolo Del Rosario

TWISTED, as usual. Jessica Zafra



They call it podcasting, I call it blogging for the ears

30 peas in a Podcast

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

LATE LAST YEAR, I FOUND MYSELF IN a cozy recording studio somewhere in the Ortigas area, willing my nerves and my vocal chords not to fail me.

No, I wasn't getting ready for my musical debut, I was busy recording my first podcast.

Podcasting (yep, a play on your beloved "iPod" and the word "broadcasting") is a way of publishing files to the Internet. These files—mostly audio (although some people have started with video too)—will be downloaded by people who can listen to it on their iPods, their iPod-like gadgets and even their computers.

I like to think of it as blogging for the ears.

Fast forward to a few weeks later, I found myself at Red Box in Greenbelt where Microwarehouse, the pimp daddy of all things Apple, launched podcasting in the Philippines by uploading thirty different podcast stations for everyone's downloading pleasure.

"This is the first time that a collective effort is done to create a podcasting content that the Philippines can be proud of," Ms Cynthia Veloria, president of Microwarehouse, said. "The project is intended to showcase local content that can provide a glimpse of Filipino life and culture."

It was a great choice of venue—each Red Box room was transformed to match their assigned podcast channel. Channels include Gay Speak, Youth Speak, Poetry, Parenting, Inspirational and Spiritual, Opinion, Tech Talk, Society, Men, Women, Lifestyle, Food, Campus, Education and News. Outside, listening stations were set up so people can listen to snippets of the different podcasts.

Soon, the AVP was rolling in every television in the venue. "Over 5 Million People Will Be Listening," the large letters seemed to scream. It was enough to give my inner geek goosebumps.

After the AVP, hosts Bianca Gonzales and Vic Icasas went around the different rooms asking people about their podcast. Super's Tals Diaz was there to talk about Fully Booked's podcast which features book reviews and excerpts from best-sellers. Jessica Zafra made everyone laugh by declaring traditional media as obsolete. "Twisted, the Podcast" is her usual lethal mix of funny and smart. RJ Ledesma, who was there to promote Manual Magazine's podcast on "what makes women tick and what makes men tock," gets the award for the funniest interview.

Another must-download podcast is Kooky Tuason's Romancing Venus—samples from her CD of the same title which features music, poetry and the voices of Angel Aquino, Super columnist KC Concepcion, Cindy Kurleto, Wawi Navarozza and many others.

There is no shortage of geeks in the Pinoy podcasting circuit. And I mean that in a very very good way. Because yeah, geeks are sexy. Check out podcasts from MPH Magazine, T3 Magazine, Gamesmaster, C! Publishing and the video podcast from Dtour. There are also podcasts from the Philippine Mac Users Group and the Philippine iPod Users Group.

Women will appreciate the podcasts of Marie Claire magazine, which features tips for career woman and Beauty 101 by Metro Magazine.

Other podcasts available for download are the PCIJ Channel, featuring audio documentaries on Philippine politics reported by David Celdran and Noli de Castro; Danton Remoto's Gay Speak; Y Speak's Video Podcast; Heights Poetry; Mommy Talk by Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan; Dial Direk where Director Freddie Santos encourages you to become a star in your life; Tatler Magazine's podcast about Manila society; Chinggay Andrada's Health and Fitness; Fabulous by Dominique James; Eddie Ilarde's Kahapon Lamang; Nancy Reyes-Lumen's The Practical Cook; Halikinu Radio and Red Box Requests where Paolo del Rosario gives a rundown of the songs people like singing the most.

Check out the Pinoy podcasts by visiting http://www.microwarehouse.com.ph/podcast/podcast.php or subscribe by clicking on your iTunes, selecting Advanced from the menu and Subscribe to podcast. Enter this URL: http://www.microwarehouse.com.ph/podcast.xml. But don't stop at just listening. Let yourself be heard. Make your own podcasts too.

Remember, over 5 million people will be listening.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

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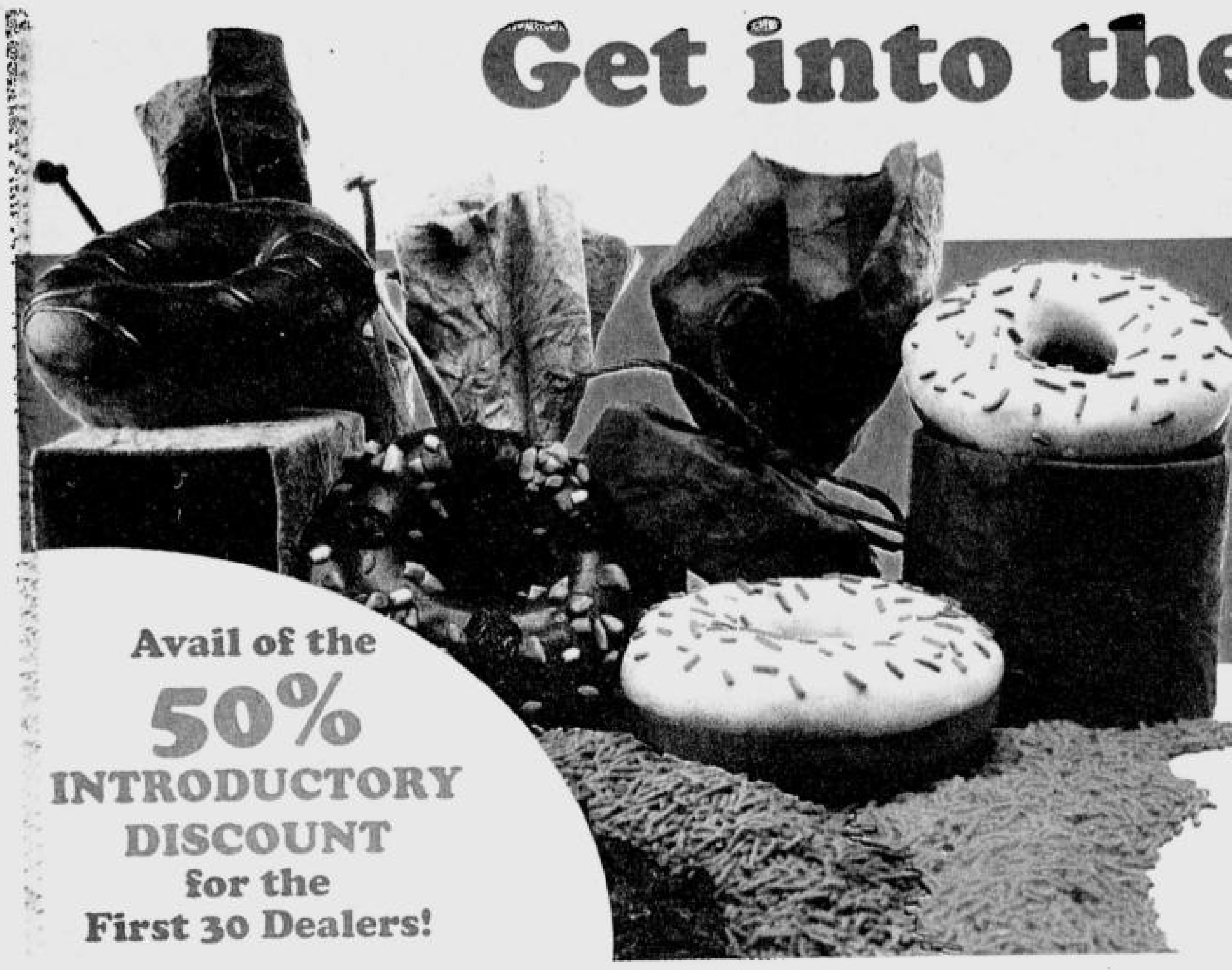

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Confessions of a former poker virgin

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

WHEN IT COMES TO COMpetition-organized sports, card games or whatever-there is only one thing more annoying than a sore loser-a smartass winner. How do I know? Let's just say I was that buffoon not so long ago. Foshiznit, you fools!

Prodded into the jaws of small-time gambling by a few close buddies, I found myself in the company of recreational card sharks, all of whom had little faith in my ability to play—much less win—a feral male game of risk and skill. And who could blame them for doubting my Zen-like concentration? Up until that point, I was a poker virgin. (An attention-deficited one at that.) But yeah, chugalugging a few more beers, I moseyed right along.

I mean, how hard could it be? Poker involves sitting down. I have an ass. Poker concerns chips and betting. I love The Vegas. Poker entails stoically looking at a bunch of cards before grouping them. Hey, I look good doing that. And I have a college degree. Bring on the A game for I will cause your intestines to explode and make you crap your pants in pain, right? Right? Wrong. As it turned out, I was cluelessly indulging in blackjack—I repeat, blackjack—to the horror of my poker-crazy pals. It was a really, really long night. Oh boy.

> **If you can't spot the sucker within the first half hour at the table, then you are the sucker.**
> **–Matt Damon in 'Rounders'**

Poker, not 'Poke her!'

Though poker has gone through a spike in popularity in recent years, especially with Generation Z, it is, by no means, fresh off the boat. Historians note that the name of the game possibly descended from the French poque, which took its cue from the German pochen. However, it's not certain whether the beginnings of poker itself lie within the ancient games that answer to those names. And there I was, under the impression that poker came about when intoxicated jocks grunted "Poke her!" at drunken coeds during a frat party in the middle ages. (Just because I made that last part up doesn't mean it never happened.) Anyway.

It's also likely the Persian game of as nas, the Renaissance game of primero, the French brelan, and the English game brag influenced the development of poker as we know it now. As early as 1829, poker was played in New Orleans with a deck of 20 cards. After the 52-card deck was introduced during the American Civil War, variations were made, among them stud poker and five-card poker. Like herpes and other fun STDs, the spread of the game to other countries, particularly in Asia, is often attributed to the US military. We love you long time!

From the arrival of the "World Series of Poker" in the 70s to the introduction of "Celebrity Poker Showdown" on Bravo in the 00s, the simple card game has appealed to huge audiences. In fact, online poker has as many fans now as its old-school counterpart, and the invention of the hole-card camera has turned the low-key diversion into a full-on spectator sport.

Don't mess with Texas

Though strip poker is hands down the sluttiest member of the poker family today, the easiest and most well-known one is called Texas Hold 'Em.

The dealer shuffles a standard 52-card deck as a round disc—the dealer button—makes its way clockwise from player to player. (This puck-like thingamabob marks which player would be the dealer as the game goes along. Like, dealing cards, not drugs.)

Most Texas Hold 'Em Poker games start with the two players to the left of the dealer "posting the blinds." Translation: they put a predetermined amount of money into the pot before any cards are dealt. Each player is dealt two cards face down called "hole cards."

After the first betting round, the dealer discards the top card of the deck, a.k.a. "burning the card," to prevent cheating. Then the dealer flips the next three cards face up on the table—the "flop." A total of five community cards will be placed for all to see on the table and players can use these with their own cards to form the best possible hand. Following that, the poker player with the most consonants in his name bursts into flames. Gotcha. Just checking if you're still with me.

Okay, so another round of betting takes place, the dealer burns another card and plays one more face up onto the table, the third round of betting begins, and the dealer burns another card before placing the final face-up card on the table. Blah blah blah, players can now use any combination of these seven cards to, again, form the most awesome five-card Poker hand. After the final betting round, all players who remain in the game reveal their hands. And duh, the player with the best hand wins a stack of, like, colorful plastic tokens. Yay!

I'm all in, sorta

On the one hand, I would've appreciated all that info before I placed bets and threw cards around like a pre-tween in need of a nap. On the other, pre-knowledge of the rules and objectives would've probably made me more respectful of the game and my fellow players. Which would've made me more serious and boring. Which would've made my subsequent journey from nowhere to famous in one game less sweet. Am I making sense?

What I'm trying to say is this. By a million o'clock that evening, I was deep-sea diving in a pile of chips despite my glaring lack of power poker know-how. Call my victory a fluke, mere beginner's luck, or a cautionary tale, but hey, I still won the pot fair and square. Whoa, did I rub that in. (That felt so awesome, by the way.)

To this day I still have no idea how I pulled that one off, since my brain was away chasing clouds instead of concentrating on winning the damn game. Then again, maybe being oblivious to it all and just having fun is the key to winning poker, whether you're a career player or a certified newbie. (Being obnoxious at the table might not be the best way to play but it sure takes the edge off.) Conservative poker dudes may brush off my approach—and never invite me ever again—but really, when you boil it down, it's still anyone's game. Pardon the pun, but they just have to, like, deal with that.

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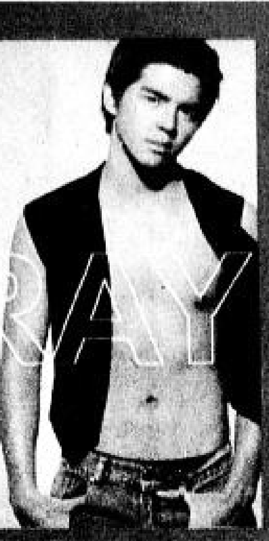
X-ray Vision

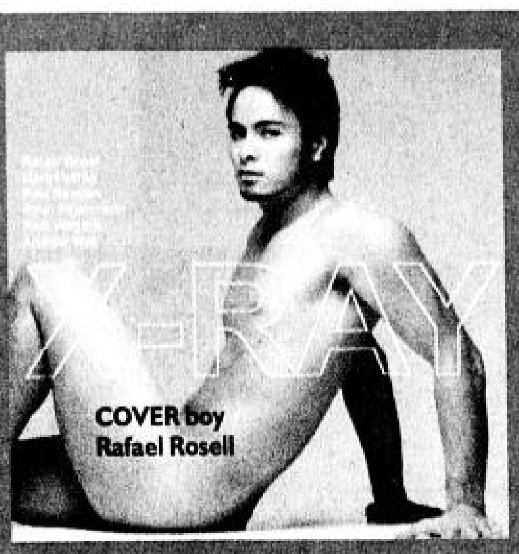
A BOOKAZINE IS A BOOK WITH A LOT of pictures, a magazine without ads. And a new bookazine is headed straight your way. X-ray will be coming out quarterly—with the first issue exploring the world of male celebrities.

Created after the realization that there is an outpouring of magazines featuring the female form but very few publications that highlight the male physique, X-ray's first issue will feature a-list actors in sexy but tasteful pictorials. "It's time that the male celebrity receive the same admiration and attention that women celebrities have been given in other publications. We want to bring male celebrities out of the sidelines and into the spotlight. We want to communicate that men can be adored and admired just as women have been for the past years," the people behind the bookazine said.



SEE a more mature Mark Herras

Bringing men from the sidelines to the spotlight



COVER boy Rafael Rosell

X-ray intends to exposes the male celebrity in its most intimate and vulnerable form—whether he is a movie heartthrob, rock god, top model or sports superstar.

Capitalizing on the fact that people are becoming more and more visual every day, this bookazine boasts of excellent photography, with Ronnie Salvacion as their chief photographer. Design, layout and concept, are inspired by international sources.

But why should people buy this bookazine? "We didn't scrimp on the pages dedicated to the photos. You will see lavish spreads and big photos because that is what the bookazine is all about. If you love eye-popping photos this is the bookazine for you. You will have no ad page interruption, just continuous photos page after page. All the stories look like main features."

The first issue includes features on Rafael Rosel, Mark Herras, Andrew Wolf, Polo Ravales, Ryan Eigenmann and Rich Vergara.

Get your collector's item copy of X-ray for P350 at CV Magazine in Landmark, Fully Booked, Bibliarch, Papyvore and selected Filbars outlets. X-ray is published by X-ray Media Publications.'

Zine Society

By Albert Alisuag
Contributor

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF A clever concept but didn't know how to spread the word? A viable option is to make a fanzine—the neighborhood and international underground guide to the subversive and sublime.

Also known as "zines," fanzines are noncommercial, nonprofessional, small-circulation magazines that are produced, published and distributed by the creators and writers themselves. Zines usually cater to one specific market or genre. Its roots could be traced back to over 70 years ago.

The first fanzine was The Comet, put together by the Science Correspondence Club in in May 1930 in the US.

Sci fi

Fans of science fiction magazines began writing their own stories and reproducing personal versions of their favorite magazines by means of old mimeographs. Fanzine creators and their dedicated audiences are also known as zinesters. The age of the fanzine was born and the world of publishing was never the same since.

The new wave of the zine revolution, the music fanzine, is a product of the punk mass movement that blasted its way through London, New York and the rest of the world in the mid '70s. Seminal punk bands like Ramones, The Sex Pistols, Sham 69, The Clash, X-Ray Specs and The Ruts rocked and inspired the kids, gained prominence and some even pierced the charts.

Rebelling against the man

Punk as a movement has a much larger cause—rebelling against the man through its music, fashion and beliefs. Revising the status quo and finally destroying the system are its main objectives. Punk also propagates the "do it yourself" ethic—that you can do anything yourself, as long as you have the enthusiasm to get things done. Talent, gender and class are of no matter—it's the fire within that counts.

Those principles were the ones that fueled the early English would-be punk writers to produce their own fanzines. Thanks in part to the spread of photocopiers, the punks suddenly had a cheap and easy way to reproduce their defiant materials.

Just like in the other parts of the world, the anarchic ways of punk was able to penetrate our shores.

Pinoy punk

A year after punk broke internationally, it was introduced to the metro in 1978, on the show Rock of Manila, hosted by Dante "Howlin' Dave" David on dzRJ 810. It immediately gained force, spawning local punk bands like The Jerks, The Lost Boys, Private Stock, Ocean Zoo, Wuds, Black Signals, Sex Militants, Runaway Boys, Public Scandal, Philippine Violators, I.O.V. and Urban Bandits in the process. Due to the increase of bands in the then booming Philippine punk underground, it was safe to say that a serious local fanzine breakout was about to take hold. By 1987, Manila's first fanzine was unleashed named Herald X, eventually becoming known as "the alternative music read for the bored generation." HX was a pioneer in the local self-publishing industry and acted as the official fanzine of the underground during that time. Tommy Tanchanco, a key figure in the local punk underground then, responsible for the Brave New World movement and founder of the Twisted Red Cross cassette-only record label, was the man behind it. Unfortunately, Herald X was short-lived and only delivered two issues. But even though Herald X's influence was fleeting, the momentum it gathered was immense and recoiled back ferociously in the form of other zines on the eve of Herald X's wake. Zines like Mutilated News, Blatant Underground, OiBanger, Anti, Blank Information, Garbage, Grrowll and Manila Oi Paper sprouted soon after and the local fanzine community was born.

Your guide to zines

Just one person or more can do fanzines. Fanzines come in different forms. The two most common are the half and full sized ones. The half-sized is simply the size of a bond paper folded in half and stapled in the middle to create a digest effect. The full-sized one is the size of a whole short bond paper, stapled at the sides to create a commercial magazine-sized publication. Most fanzines are photocopied and some are news printed at the cheapest cost possible. Some are free and the majority is priced dirtily cheap. As for zine front covers, a punk/hardcore zine may feature a throng of punks—mohawks and all, moshing in a violent pit. Indie fanzine covers usually sport weird collages and artworks while black metal zines usually have morbid artworks or images of black metal warriors, wielding their swords and axes or fire breathing in the blood freezing night. Zine producers write about and revere their favorite underground bands—interviewing them and reviewing their latest releases and criticizing commercial bands for their so-called lack of passion for music and more attention to the profits. Zines present music and zine reviews and sometimes, if the editor is extra-energetic, could also feature book and movie reviews. Other fanzines feature art, poetry and essays on personal thoughts and experiences.

July 2002
issue no. 2
SOLUBLE<F>
P12bucks
NO CLASS TODAY!!!

IF YOU have something to say, zines are the way to go

From punk to politics

A lot of zines also have political commentaries, some even have ads. The world of the fanzines is unregulated. There are no boards to look over the materials being released, making the parameters of fanzinedom wider than the mainstream press. A lot of nudity abound, so do expletives and other personal releases of hostility and stress. Of course, this is not the case for all fanzines. Writers virtually have unlimited freedom. For the zine producers, creating their respective fanzines is both therapy and catharsis—they get to purge their inner demons out.

Fanzines do not appear on a regular basis. Since there are no formal deadlines, most zine makers take their time—even as long as six months more to finish one issue.

Brotherhood

Most fanzine writers are part of a social group, supporting a common cause. Because of this, it's hard to gain access to zines if you do not belong to any subgroup. It would be difficult to be aware of the presence of say, a brutal death metal publication, if one is not a supporter of that sub-genre of metal. Most of the time, zine producers acquire other zines by trading their works with other zine creators, giving a sense of brotherhood and community—a trait of the fanzine culture since its very inception.

How to get a copy

If you are curious on how to obtain copy, a good place to look out for is your neighborhood independent music store. College zinesters also usually sell their works on their campus bookstores or on roving distros. They can also pop up in novelty shops scattered across the metro. Ask your cousin or your neighbor, they might even be zinesters themselves. The key is to know where to search. Once you get a copy, you can already delve deeper in the zine world by contacting its creator or ordering other zines if your copy has fanzine reviews.

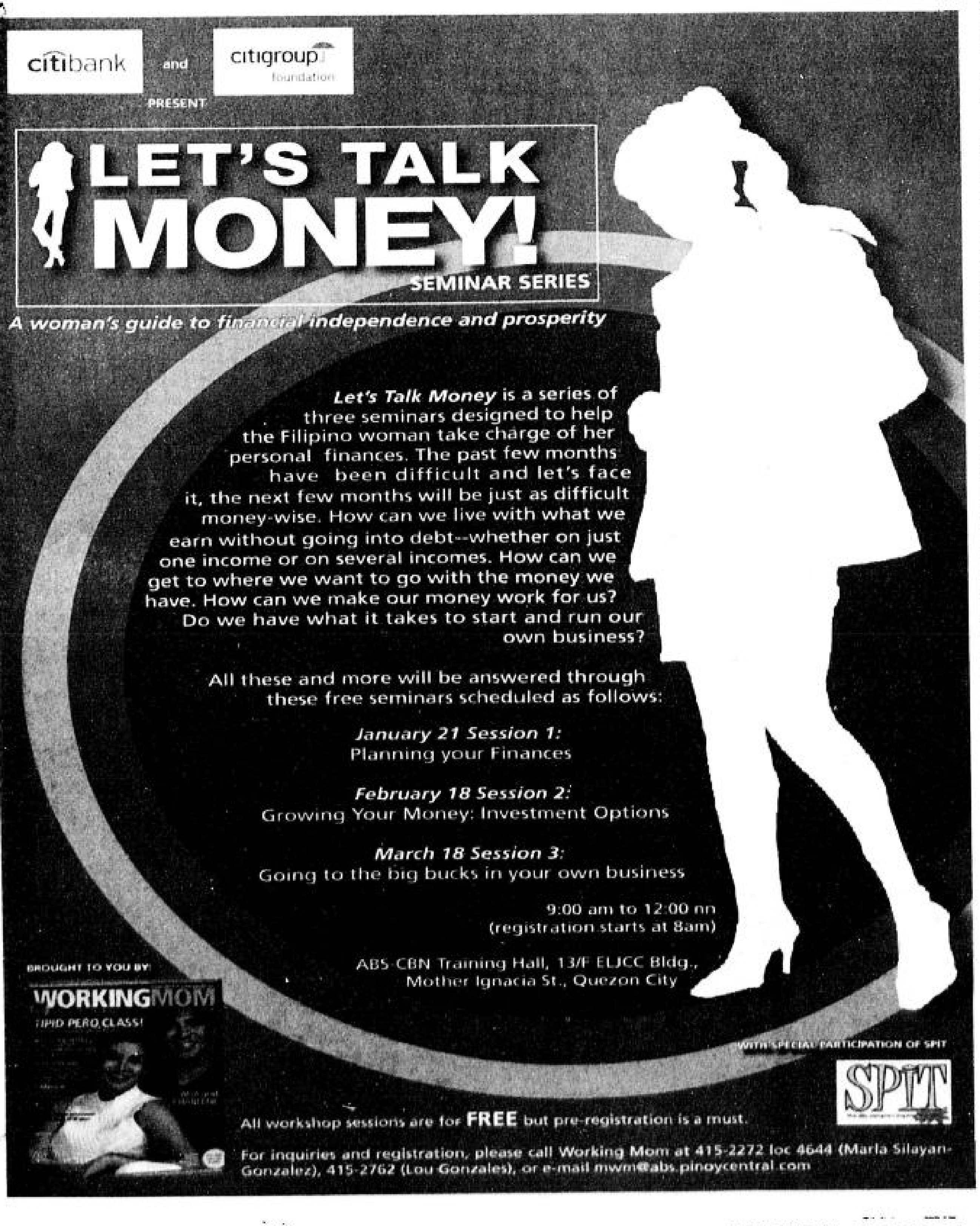
Zines have changed over the years. Today there are hundreds of kinds of zines around the world, catering to a whole plethora of different genres, interests and audiences.

There was a fanzine boom in the Philippines in the late 90s up to 2001. It gradually slowed down in 2002 but has slowly picked itself up again in 2004 and has been rising ever since. Nowadays, there are still a lot of punk zines along with death metal, black metal, indie and, even pornzines. Most zines faded into obscurity before they even got to their prime while some bravely persist. Some of the prominent zines that have passed on are: A.B zine, Trash, Ratroach, Scenester, W.R.I.N.G., Why Sit Down?, Moon Madness and The Taste Of Black. Some of the active ones are Get in Touch, Tango Bango, Jawbreaker and Scrawlshop zine. Upcoming ones include are Dapithapon, Verbal Offense, No Bullshit!, Tripalium, In Dark Purity, Womyn etc. Now, in the era of the Internet, most printed fanzines are shifting to the web for a cheaper cost and a debatably larger audience.

Alternative view

But the thrill of having a fresh copy of your favorite counterculture zine, slowly thumbing through its pages, can never be replaced by the click of a mouse.

Fanzines exist for a reason, to give a pure and alternative view of the world we live in. It is a totally separate entity from the coverage of mainstream media, ruled by the bigwigs in major corporations. Rock n' roll, sex, religion or any topic can be seen in totally diverse views—from the point of view of the obsessed fan to the highly motivated activist or the cynical bloke who thinks it's the end of the world. The list goes on. The zines go on. Consider your interests, there might already be a fanzine society dedicated to it. If not, go start one.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LET'S TALK MONEY! SEMINAR SERIES
A woman's guide to financial independence and prosperity

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Going to the big bucks in your own business

9:00 am to 12:00 nn
(registration starts at 8am)

ABS-CBN Training Hall, 13/F ELJCC Bldg.,
Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City

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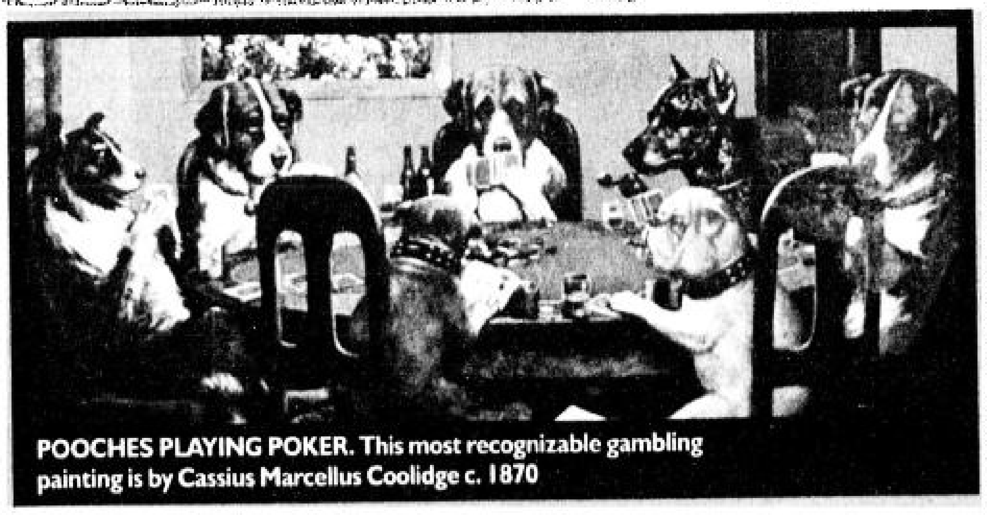
WITH SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF SPIT

All workshop sessions are for **FREE** but pre-registration is a must.

For inquiries and registration, please call Working Mom at 415-2272 loc 4644 (Marla Silayan-Gonzalez), 415-2762 (Lou Gonzales), or e-mail mwm@abs.pinoycentral.com

Confessions

From page D1



POOCHES PLAYING POKER. This most recognizable gambling painting is by Cassius Marcellus Coolidge c. 1870

No entiendo? No problemo! Here are a few poker terms that will make you sound like you actually know what you're doing even if you really don't.

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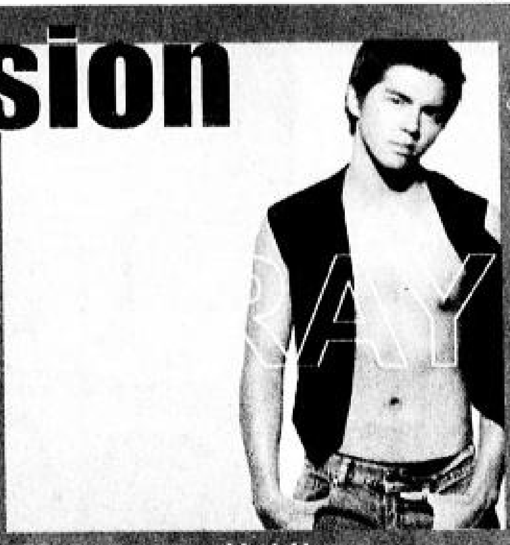
X-ray Vision

Bringing men from the sidelines to the spotlight

A BOOKAZINE IS A BOOK WITH A LOT of pictures, a magazine without ads. And a new bookazine is headed straight your way. X-ray will be coming out quarterly—with the first issue exploring the world of male celebrities.

Created after the realization that there is an outpouring of magazines featuring the female form but very few publications that highlight the male physique, X-ray's first issue will feature a-list actors in sexy but tasteful pictorials. "It's time that the male celebrity receive the same admiration and attention that women celebrities have been given in other publications. We want to bring male celebrities out of the sidelines and into the spotlight. We want to communicate that men can be adored and admired just as women have been for the past years," the people behind the bookazine said.



SEE a more mature Mark Herras

X-ray intends to exposes the male celebrity in its most intimate and vulnerable form—whether he is a movie heartthrob, rock god, top model or sports superstar.

COVER boy Rafael Rosell

Capitalizing on the fact that people are becoming more and more visual every day, this bookazine boasts of excellent photography with Ronnie Salvacion as their chief photographer. Design, layout and concept are inspired by international sources.

But, why should people buy this bookazine? "We didn't scrimp on the pages dedicated to the photos. You will see lavish spreads and big photos because that's what the bookazine is all about. If you love eye-popping photos, this is the bookazine for you. You will have no ad page interruption, just continuous photos, page after page. All the stories look like main features."

The first issue includes features on Rafael Rosell, Mark Herras, Andrew Wolff, Polo Ravales, Ryan Eigenmann and Rich Vergara.

Get your collector's item copy of X-ray for P350 at CV Magazine in Landmark, Fully Booked, Bibliarch, Papyrus and selected Filbars outlets. X-ray is published by X-ray Media Publications.

Zine Society

By Albert Alisuag
Contributor

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF A clever concept but didn't know how to spread the word? A viable option is to make a fanzine—the neighborhood and international underground guide to the subversive and sublime.

Also known as "zines," fanzines are non-commercial, nonprofessional, small-circulation magazines that are produced, published and distributed by the creators and writers themselves. Zines usually cater to one specific market or genre. Its roots could be traced back to over 70 years ago.

The first fanzine was The Comet, put together by the Science Correspondence Club in in May 1930 in the US.

Sci fi

Fans of science fiction magazines began writing their own stories and reproducing personal versions of their favorite magazines by means of old mimeographs. Fanzine creators and their dedicated audiences are also known as zinesters. The age of the fanzine was born and the world of publishing was never the same since.

The new wave of the zine revolution, the music fanzine, is a product of the punk mass movement that blasted its way through London, New York and the rest of the world in the mid '70s. Seminal punk bands like Ramones, The Sex Pistols, Sham 69, The Clash, X-Ray Specs and The Ruts rocked and inspired the kids, gained prominence and some even pierced the charts.

Rebelling against the man

Punk as a movement has a much larger cause—rebelling against the man through its music, fashion and beliefs. Revising the status quo and finally destroying the system are its main objectives. Punk also propagates the "do it yourself" ethic—that you can do anything yourself, as long as you have the enthusiasm to get things done. Talent, gender and class are of no matter—it's the fire within that counts.

Those principles were the ones that fueled the early English would-be punk writers to produce their own fanzines. Thanks in part to the spread of photocopiers, the punks suddenly had a cheap and easy way to reproduce their defiant materials.

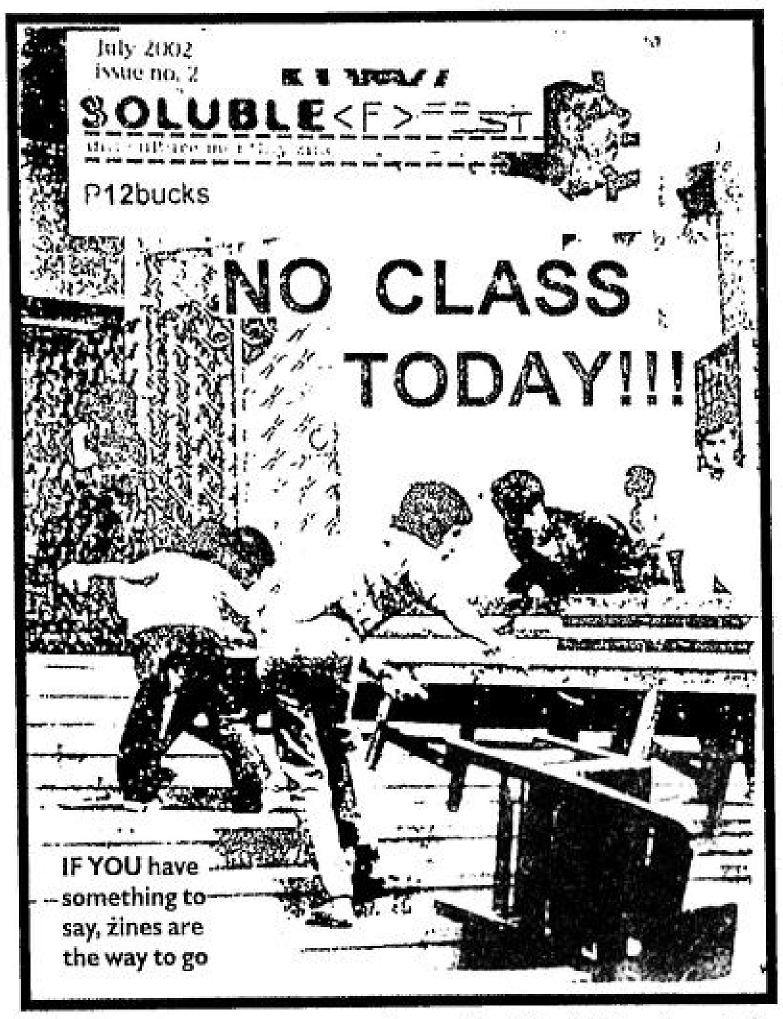
Just like in the other parts of the world, the anarchic ways of punk was able to penetrate our shores.

Pinoy punk

A year after punk broke internationally, it was introduced to the metro in 1978, on the show Rock of Manila, hosted by Dante "Howlin' Dave" David on dzRJ 810. It immediately gained force, spawning local punk bands like The Jerks, The Lost Boys, Private Stock, Ocean Zoo, Wuds, Black Signals, Sex Militants, Runaway Boys, Public Scandal, Philippine Violators, I.O.V. and Urban Bandits in the process. Due to the increase of bands in the then booming Philippine punk underground, it was safe to say that a serious local fanzine breakout was about to take hold. By 1987, Manila's first fanzine was unleashed named Herald X, eventually becoming known as "the alternative music read for the bored generation." HX was a pioneer in the local self-publishing industry and acted as the official fanzine of the underground during that time. Tommy Tanchanco, a key figure in the local punk underground then, responsible for the Brave New World movement and founder of the Twisted Red Cross cassette-only record label, was the man behind it. Unfortunately, Herald X was short-lived and only delivered two issues. But even though Herald X's influence was fleeting, the momentum it gathered was immense and recoiled back ferociously in the form of other zines on the eve of Herald X's wake. Zines like Mutilated News, Blatant Underground, OiBanger, Anti, Blank Information, Garbage, Grrowll and Manila Oi Paper sprouted soon after and the local fanzine community was born.

Your guide to zines

Just one person or more can do fanzines. Fanzines come in different forms. The two most common are the half and full sized ones. The half-sized is simply the size of a bond paper folded in half and stapled in the middle to create a digest effect. The full-sized one is the size of a whole short bond paper, stapled at the sides to create a commercial magazine-sized publication. Most fanzines are photocopied and some are news printed at the cheapest cost possible. Some are free and the majority is priced dirtily cheap. As for zine front covers, a punk/hardcore zine may feature a throng of punks—mohawks and all, moshing in a violent pit. Indie fanzine covers usually sport weird collages and artworks while black metal zines usually have morbid artworks or images of black metal warriors, wielding their swords and axes or fire breathing in the blood freezing night. Zine producers write about and revere their favorite underground bands—interviewing them and reviewing their latest releases and criticizing commercial bands for their so-called lack of passion for music and more attention to the profits. Zines present music and zine reviews and sometimes, if the editor is extra-energetic, could also feature book and movie reviews. Other fanzines feature art, poetry and essays on personal thoughts and experiences.



IF YOU have something to say, zines are the way to go

From punk to politics

A lot of zines also have political commentaries, some even have ads. The world of the fanzines is unregulated. There are no boards to look over the materials being released, making the parameters of fanzinedom wider than the mainstream press. A lot of nudity abound, so do expletives and other personal releases of hostility and stress. Of course, this is not the case for all fanzines. Writers virtually have unlimited freedom. For the zine producers, creating their respective fanzines is both therapy and catharsis—they get to purge their inner demons out.

Fanzines do not appear on a regular basis. Since there are no formal deadlines, most zine makers take their time—even as long as six months more to finish one issue.

Brotherhood

Most fanzine writers are part of a social group, supporting a common cause. Because of this, it's hard to gain access to zines if you do not belong to any subgroup. It would be difficult to be aware of the presence of say, a brutal death metal publication, if one is not a supporter of that sub-genre of metal. Most of the time, zine producers acquire other zines by trading their works with other zine creators, giving a sense of brotherhood and community—a trait of the fanzine culture since its very inception.

How to get a copy

If you are curious on how to obtain copy, a good place to look out for is your neighborhood independent music store. College zinesters also usually sell their works on their campus bookstores or on roving distros. They can also pop up in novelty shops scattered across the metro. Ask your cousin or your neighbor, they might even be zinesters themselves. The key is to know where to search. Once you get a copy, you can already delve deeper in the zine world by contacting its creator or ordering other zines if your copy has fanzine reviews.

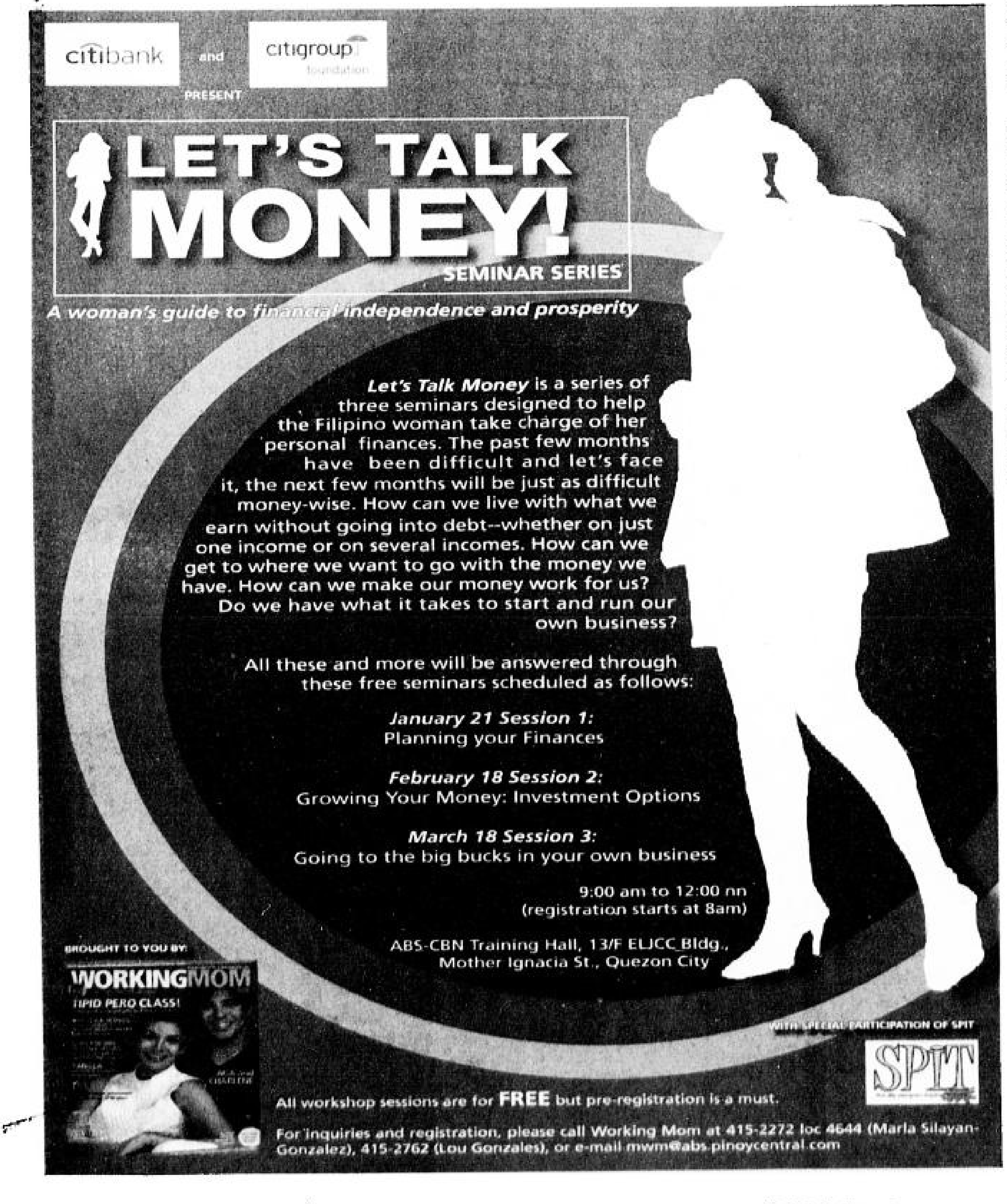
Zines have changed over the years. Today there are hundreds of kinds of zines around the world, catering to a whole plethora of different genres, interests and audiences.

There was a fanzine boom in the Philippines in the late 90s up to 2001. It gradually slowed down in 2002 but has slowly picked itself up again in 2004 and has been rising ever since. Nowadays, there are still a lot of punk zines along with death metal, black metal, indie and even pornzines. Most zines faded into obscurity before they even got to their prime while some bravely persist. Some of the prominent zines that have passed on are: A.B zine, Trash, Ratroach, Scenester, W.R.I.N.G., Why Sit Down?, Moon Madness and The Taste Of Black. Some of the active ones are Get in Touch, Tango Bango, Jawbreaker and Scrawlshop zine. Upcoming ones include are Dapithapon, Verbal Offense, No Bullshit!, Tripalium, In Dark Purity, Womyn etc. Now, in the era of the Internet, most printed fanzines are shifting to the web for a cheaper cost and a debatably larger audience.

Alternative view

But the thrill of having a fresh copy of your favorite counterculture zine, slowly thumbing through its pages, can never be replaced by the click of a mouse.

Fanzines exist for a reason, to give a pure and alternative view of the world we live in. It is a totally separate entity from the coverage of mainstream media, ruled by the bigwigs in major corporations. Rock n' roll, sex, religion or any topic can be seen in totally diverse views—from the point of view of the obsessed fan to the highly motivated activist or the cynical bloke who thinks it's the end of the world. The list goes on. The zines go on. Consider your interests, there might already be a fanzine society dedicated to it. If not, go start one.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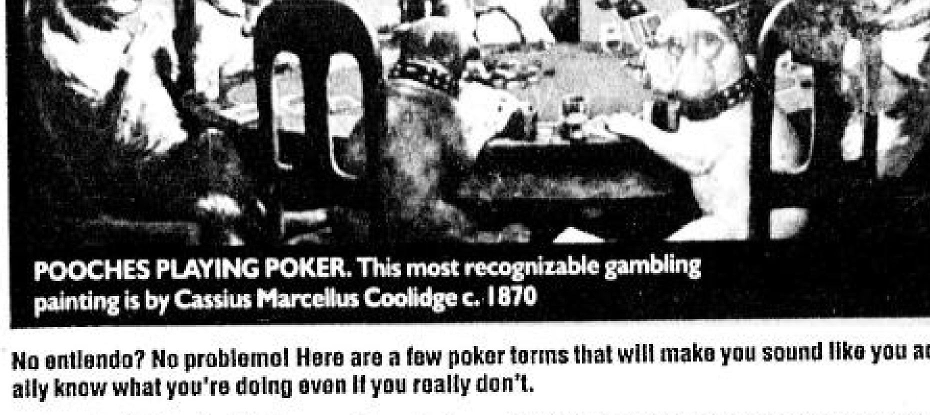

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NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED!

ALABANG Left Wing | Festival Supermall | Filinvest ▪ **MAKATI** Corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Extension ▪ **LIBIS** 150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue | Bagumbayan | QC

ARANETA Gen. Aguinaldo Ave. corner Gen. McArthur Ave. | Araneta Center ▪ **ANTIPOLO** M.L. Quezon Corner Circumferential Road | Brgy. San Roque ▪ **MANILA** Harrison Plaza Mall | A. Mabini and M. Adriatico Streets | Malate | Manila

THE COLUMNS
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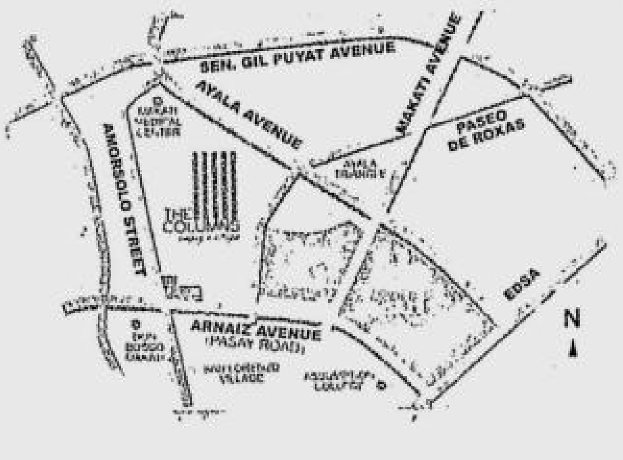
in the park...literally

True fashion mavens know that fashion is more than just clothes. It is rooted in a philosophy that speaks of freedom to be yourself and to live the life you choose.

And in essence, that's what Community Innovations is all about. That's why after the resounding success of The Columns Ayala Avenue, another set of Columns is rising in the heart of exciting Legazpi Village. With the introduction of lofts and bi-level units, **The Columns Legazpi Village** not only brings the bohemian feel of downtown New York and Parisian living to Manila, it also promises to give your life a total make over. With Greenbelt and several other major fashion hubs all within walking distance, keeping up with the latest trends, or starting a new one, can literally be a walk in the park. And while you're at it, why not make good use of that new gym outfit and burn a few calories on the way? At **The Columns Legazpi Village**, a better life, like everything else, is within a few steps.

Call 888.0000
Email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph
Visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph
Model units available for viewing at the 3rd level, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, everyday from 10 am to 8 pm (Sunday to Thursday), 10 am to 9 pm (Friday and Saturday).

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that caters to young urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.



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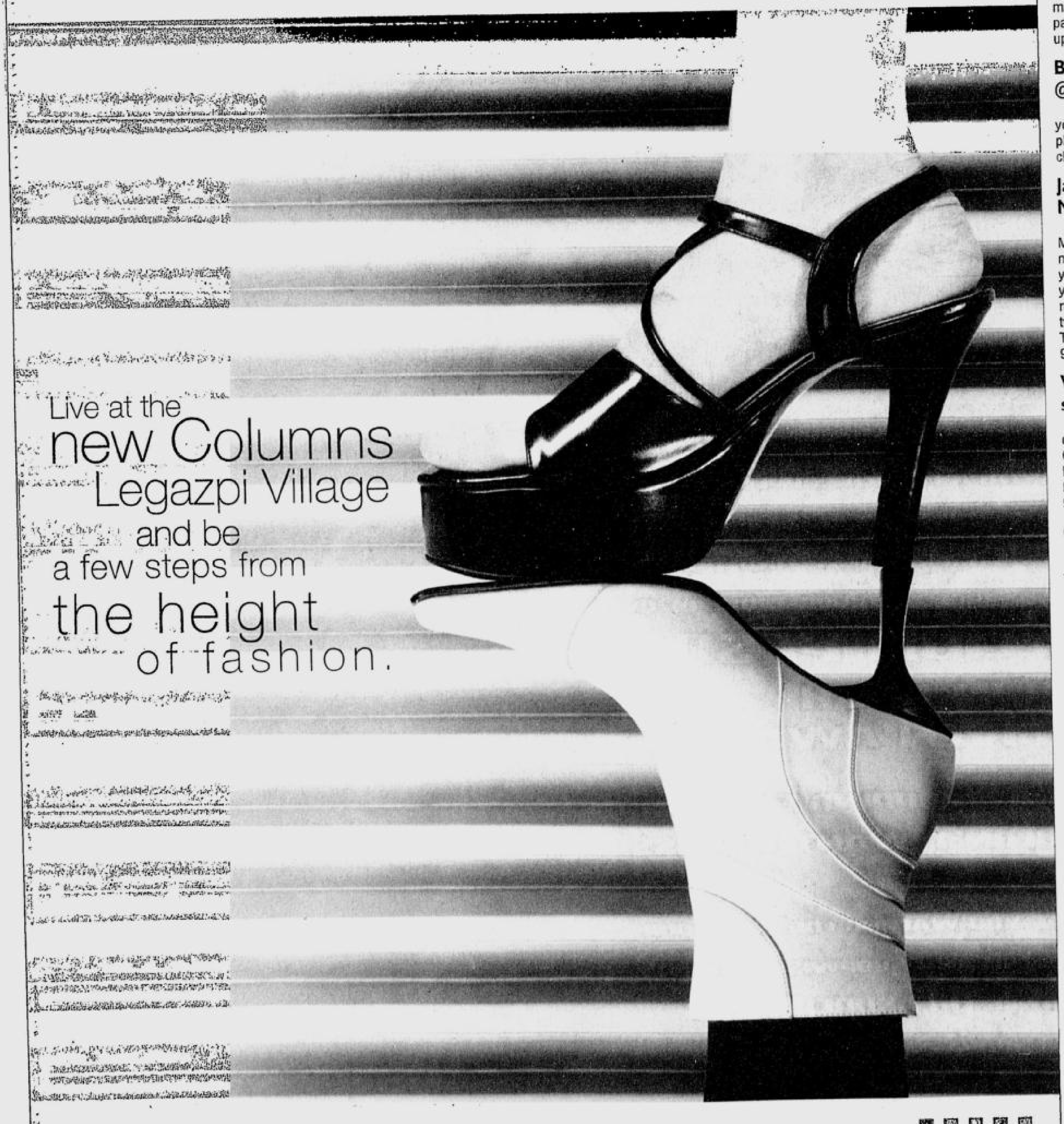

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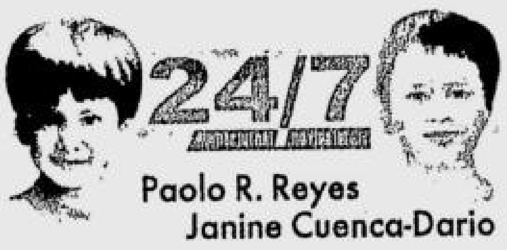
As low as ₱10,000 per month

All that jazz

NEXT WEEKEND, THERE WILL BE many reasons to lend our support to the Jazz Society of the Philippines, as they undertake the massive step of mounting the 1st Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival (www.pijazzfest.com) from Jan. 20 to 23 at simultaneous venues in the city.

Apart from the over 300 multinational jazz bands and soloists performing, there will also be quite an influx of world-class foreign artists, including American songbird Kevyn Lettau, Brazilian pianist Emir Deodata, Australian tribal music troupe Sirocco, percussionist Mike Shapiro, chanteuse Charmaine Clamor, and LA-based jazz quintet Crescendo 5.



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

"We hope to put our country in the international jazz map," shares festival organizer Sandra Lim Viray, who reminded us of a time when, as the greater part of the world lay naive to the winds of jazz, Filipinos were already pumping out New Orleans-style jazz even before the likes of Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington rose to fame.

Manila Surfers Cup Launch Party @ Katips, Jan. 18

We've found you the perfect excuse to grab your backpack, drive north, and arrive at the sun-drenched shores of a surfer's paradise. The Manila Surfers Association holds a happening party at Katips [209 Katipunan Ave., Blue Ridge, Q.C., phone: 912-9437] on Wednesday to launch the upcoming Manila Surfers Cup (Jan. 21 at San Juan, La Union). Aside from having a fashion show by Reef and Oakley, interested participants may already register for the competition at the party. (Chillax, the fee is only P300, tops.) Surf's up, people, way up!

Backstreet Boys: Live in Manila! @ Araneta Coliseum, Jan. 20

Better make a run for those front row seats if you intend make that furtive dash to the stage and plant a multiple kisses on the already-mauled cheeks of Nick Carter. Call 911-5555.

Jason Mraz: Live! @ Rockwell Tent & NBC Tent, Jan. 20 & 21

28-year-old Grammy-nominated crooner Jason Mraz returns to the P.I. to perform songs from his new album. In case you missed his concert last year, now's your chance to stand, mouth agape as you listen to those lovely, lilting lyrics from the reigning wordplay prince of pop-rock. He will stage two special acoustic engagements at the Rockwell Tent on Jan. 20 and the NBC Tent on Jan. 21. Call 911-5555.

World Jazz Fiesta: Festival kick off & street party @ The Podium, Jan. 20

Performing at the opening party next Friday is quite a crowd-drawing line-up: The Brass Munkeys, Guarana, Nyko Maca, Electrosamba, Hairy Dawgs, Pinikpikan, and Sirocco. 7 p.m. onwards at The Podium Mall, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 891-9999, 911-5555, or visit www.pijazzfest.com

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Jan. 14, Saturday

Pedicab, Drip, Itchyworms, Narda, Brownbeat All Stars & Too Late the Hero at Saguijo; Supermodel Saturdays at Embassy Club; Moonstar88 at Conspiracy; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine

Jan. 15, Sunday

Bloody Mary Sundays at Absinth; CouchLab DJs at Bamboo Lounge, Fort; Acoustic Night at Phi Bar

Jan. 16, Monday

Outerhope at Conspiracy; Legendary Mondays with DJ Patch at Absinth; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Jan. 17, Tuesday

Panic with The Dorques, Death by Tampon, Monsterbot, The Ex Presidents, and DJs Alessandra Tinio & Chi Castañeda at Zen; Ethan band at Temple; Sitar Nights at Bollywood

Jan. 18, Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Mayonnaise, Collie Herb, Rinka, Salamin & Tie Dye Shift at Saguijo; Blow VIP Birthday Bash at Government

Jan. 19, Thursday

Cooky Chua at Conspiracy; Gay Speed Dating with DJ Brit at Government; Kapatid, Triggerbliss, Soapdish & CopperPopThrill at Saguijo

Jan. 20, Friday

Celebrating the SoCal Sound feat. Severo, Chicosci, Man Down, Chongkies, & Too Late the Hero at Saguijo; UpDharma Down & DayDream Cycle at Conspiracy; DJs Marie Garcia & Martin Aquino at Embassy Cuisine; Brass Munkeys, Guarana, Nyko Maca, Electrosamba, Hairy Dawgs, Pinikpikan, and Sirocco at The Podium; Jive Fridays at Temple

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

FILIPINO OF THE YEAR 2005

THE FILIPINO ATHLETE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, January 15, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 38 P18

SHIELA MAE PEREZ
Diving

ALEX PAGULAYAN
Billiards and snooker

At last, a celebration of national pride and unity

THE YEAR HAD BEEN ONE LONG losing streak.

But for less than a fortnight of fun and games, they pulled together an unwieldy and hopelessly divided nation in celebration of sporting excellence and a display, yet again, of the Filipino's vaunted resilience in spirit.

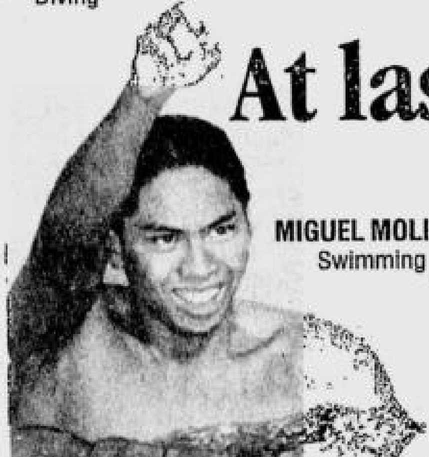
For igniting an explosion of unabashed national pride and unity in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, the Filipino Athletes were the overwhelming choice of INQUIRER editors for Filipino of the Year. *(Other nominees on Page A16.)*

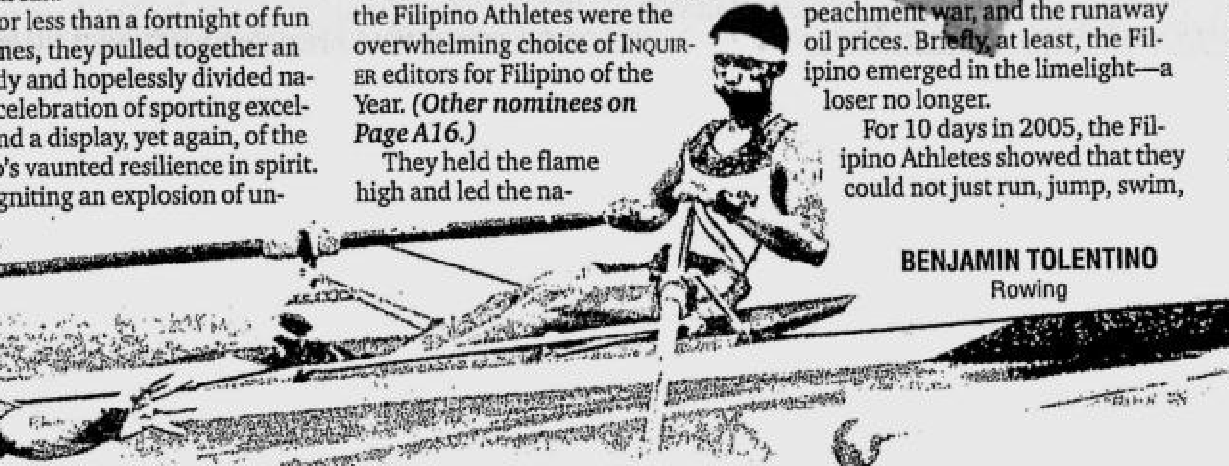
They held the flame high and led the nation out of the depths and darkness of the "Hello Garci" scandal, the impeachment war, and the runaway oil prices. Briefly, at least, the Filipino emerged in the limelight—a loser no longer.

For 10 days in 2005, the Filipino Athletes showed that they could not just run, jump, swim, dive, tumble, fight and win. In the process, they also brought together a nation divided, gave the Filipinos back their sense of pride as a people, and turned them into one collective cheering squad.

The athletes showed they could rebuild in just a few

AT LAST/ A16


MIGUEL MOLINA
Swimming


BENJAMIN TOLENTINO
Rowing

CECIL MAMIIT
Tennis

ARNIEL FERRERA
Hammer throw

GMA will not cut term in '07

Ms Arroyo serves notice contrary to FVR position

By Cynthia D. Balana, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO SERVED NOTICE to the ruling Lakas-CMD party that she intended to remain in power until 2010 as party leaders, meeting in a national caucus last night, appeared to solidify their support behind her.

Ms Arroyo, in her own opening speech, made it clear she had no plans to loosen her grip on the presidency.

"We must strengthen our ranks to enforce and sustain full democratic leadership until 2010 and for the next generation," the President declared.

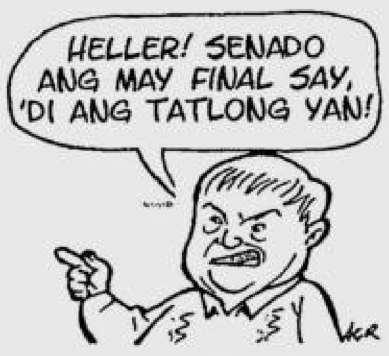
It was not immediately clear if former President Fidel V. Ramos, who has called on Ms Arroyo to step down by 2007, expressed support for Ms Arroyo in her bid to serve out her full term but a Lakas spokersperson said the two leaders appeared reconciliatory during the meeting.

As the meeting dragged on towards midnight, the assembly unanimously passed a motion that Ms Arroyo's term would not be touched, lawmakers said.

"It was unanimously adopted. No one objected, including FVR," said Rep. Prospero Pichay.

"There were no fireworks .... The

GMA/ A15


HELLER! SENADO ANG MAY FINAL SAY, 'DI ANG TATLONG YAN!
KCR

Senate is Cha-cha battleground, Joker fumes at troika show

By TJ Burgonio

IT IS THE SENATE THAT WILL BE the battleground of the efforts to amend the Constitution and talk among the Lakas "triumvirate" about how the Charter will be changed is pure inanity, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

"The 'initiative' to amend or revise the Constitution rests exclusively with Congress, absent an

SENATE/ A15

ROEL RAMIREZ
Gymnastics

MARITES BITBIT
Mountain biking

MARISTELA TORRES
Long jump

ALFREDO TRAZONA
Bodybuilding

JOHN BAYLON
Judo

US paper: Our GIs not above law

By Volt Contreras and Armand N. Nocum

NO LESS THAN A PULITZER PRIZE-winning American newspaper has cautioned its own government against placing the four US Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman "above the law."

The San Francisco Chronicle spoke out on the Subic Bay rape case even as Manila and Washington appeared to have reached a stalemate on the issue of which country should have custody of the accused.

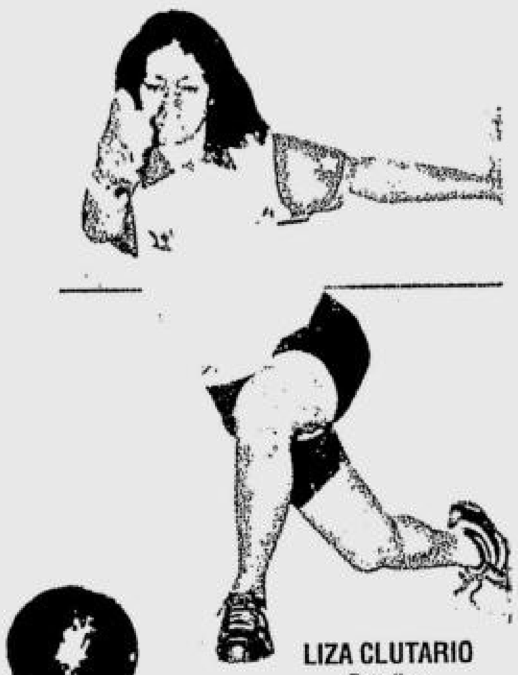
In a Jan. 5 editorial, the SFC wrote: "While US troops serving abroad should be granted protection by their country, they should not be handed blanket immunity for crimes they might commit.

"Just as the United States would not tolerate such crimes against its citizens from foreigners on its soil, so our own people should be held accountable for their actions."

The 140-year-old newspaper, owned by Hearst Communications, has won the Pulitzer Prize—the top prize in American journalism—several times. It is one of the largest newspapers in the US West Coast, with a

US PAPER/ A15

HARRY TANAMOR
Boxing


LIZA CLUTARIO
Bowling

Sister brew dethrones RP's king of beers

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE KING OF PHILIPPINE BEERS IS now a pauper beside its pedestrian sibling in the P52-billion-a-year local brew market.

San Miguel Pale Pilsen, the flagship beer of San Miguel Corp. in the ubiquitous squat brown bottle, has seen its market share dwindle to a record low of 29 percent as of September 2005, according to records obtained from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Asia's oldest brew, Pale Pilsen, which is exported to other countries and rated as one of the world's largest selling beers, has been on a downtrend since 2001, when its market share hit 50.76 percent—and further tumbled to 39 percent in 2003.

In contrast, Red Horse Strong Beer has been on a gallop in the last four years, with its market share zooming from 33 percent in 2001 to 49 per-

SISTER/ A15

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Equestrian team

TSHOMLEE GO
Taekwondo

RENE HERRERA
Steeplechase

ALFIE CATALAN
Cycling

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/01/15/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

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Cops seize 1,900 guns, 130,000 more to go

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE SEIZED 1,900 LOOSE FIREARMS last year, leaving an estimated 130,000 more unlicensed weapons of all types and calibers in the hands of unidentified people throughout the country, according to official records.

In addition to the unlicensed weapons, the records showed about 400,000 guns had expired licenses as of the end of 2004, nearly half of the total of 900,000 firearms registered with the Philippine National Police. The police's latest records on unlicensed firearms were as of the end of 2004.

The records of the PNP's Intelligence Directorate showed that only 7,900 people availed themselves of the PNP's amnesty program in 2005, and officials said they were thinking of extending the program.

"We have asked the regional directors to feel the pulse of the people," said Chief Supt. Arturo Cacdac, head of the PNP's Firearms and Explosives Division. "We want to know if they still want an extension of the amnesty program."

According to the records, the largest collections of unlicensed firearms were found in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao with an estimated 35,000, followed by Region 4-A (Calabarzon) with 25,000, Region 6 (Western Visayas) 21,000, and Region 9 (Western Mindanao) 10,000.

Next on the list was Metro Manila with 7,000 loose firearms.

Firearms licensing, including renewals, remained the biggest revenue-generating activity of the police, fetching around P290 million in 2005, some P80 million more than in the previous year. The amount included P28 million in fees paid by those who availed themselves of the amnesty program in 2005.

The PNP says it has been stricter in regulating guns and, according to the Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers, this has contributed to a downturn in the sales of weapons.

The Anti-Gun Society has blamed the recent wave of political killings nationwide partly on the Filipinos' love affair with guns.

Meanwhile, the National Police Commission has announced that 21,973 PNP positions were vacant, paving the way for the promotion or employment of as many officers or would-be policemen.

The available ranks range from Senior Police Officer SPO) 2 to Senior Superintendent down to Senior Police Officer (SPO) 2, the Napolcom said in a statement Friday.

The openings include 301 slots for senior superintendent, 581 for superintendent, 802 for chief inspector, 966 for senior inspector, 413 for inspector, 5,930 for SPO4, 7,007 for SPO3, and 5,973 for SPO2. *With a report from Tarra V. Quismundo*

Local oil firms set more price hikes

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER IMPLEMENTING A ROLLBACK AT the start of the year, oil firms succumbed to escalating world oil prices and hiked the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter and of cooking gas by 50 centavos per kilogram.

First to implement the price adjustment was refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., which raised its rates at 6 p.m. yesterday.

Following at 12:01 a.m. today are fellow refiner Petron Corp. and pure finished product importers Caltex Philippines Inc., Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Flying V.

Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. will raise prices by the same levels at 6 a.m. today, while Seaoil Petroleum Corp. will increase its rates by 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

The oil firms cited the surge in world oil prices as the reason for the price hike.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude rose by almost $4 to a January average of $56.86 a barrel from last month's average of $53.20 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products had likewise skyrocketed to $66.64 in the Jan. 1-12 period, a hike of more than $5 from $61.01 a barrel last month.

MOPS-based diesel also soared to an average of $71.99 a barrel in the first 12 days of January from $67.03 a barrel in December.

The international contract price of LPG also surged to an all-time high of $582 per metric ton (MT), rising by $44 from the December average of $538 per MT.

LPG contract prices had been steadily rising since July last year when it was pegged at $400.10 per MT. By the following month, the price had risen to $404.20 per MT and to $440.20 per MT in September.

The price breached the $500 per MT level in October at $519 per MT, which again rose to $549 per MT in November. The price dropped to $538 per MT in December, only to rise to $582 per MT this month.

With this price hike, premium unleaded gasoline will now retail at between P36.15 and P37.40 a liter, diesel at between P29.90 and P33.65 a liter, and kerosene at between P32.65 and P35.80 a liter.

LPG will now sell for between P480 and P530 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

FVR favors British over French model of parliament

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone – Former President Fidel V. Ramos batted for the British parliamentary model over the French type espoused by other leaders like Speaker Jose de Venecia in the Charter-change (Cha-cha) debate.

"In the (British) House of Commons, the government represented by the prime minister and the opposition debate local, domestic, national and international questions over a not-so-large table," Ramos told reporters here on Friday. "They engage in debate face to face, in a very transparent but very civil and intelligent intellectual discourse."

Ramos added: "Small problems to begin with are debated in that manner and before they become national scandals. Action is being taken by Parliament to protect the national interest in a swift manner and to me that is a better system."

The French model, he said, was "almost a replica of the status quo in the Philippines." He called attention to the "slowness" with which the French parliament resolved the riots in Paris in December.

Ramos also dropped hints that the national directorate of the administration party Lakas might still not agree with finality on whether President Macapagal-Arroyo should cut her term short and serve with diminished powers should there be a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

If nothing positive still came out of the Lakas meeting, he said he was all for letting Congress as the representative of the people decide on the matter.

He also stressed that the economy should take precedence over all other concerns.

"The solution [to the country's problems] is to make Clark and Subic and the economy the main effort of our leaders because while we are now pursuing political reforms… the economy, especially the economy of the poor Filipinos, is to me the most pressing, current as well as future problem of the Philippines," he said.

He also moved to debunk speculations he still harbored ambitions to return to power by bidding to become prime minister should a parliamentary government be installed.

Why should I aspire for any position?" he said, noting that a position in Parliament represented a "demotion" for a former President. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Hold departure order issued vs Tan brothers

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY–THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has issued a hold departure order against the Tan brothers tagged in the killing of their businessman father, stepmother and six-year-old half-sister.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the order against Archie, 23, and Jan (not John as earlier reported) Michael Tan, 18, was issued Friday and will take effect upon its receipt by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation and other concerned agencies.

"The case has already been filed in the prosecutor's office," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview, adding, "Parricide is a very serious crime."

He said he issued the hold order because there was a possibility of flight by the respondents and "to preserve the situation" so that the investigation could proceed.

The brothers, through their legal counsel, have maintained that they will not leave the country.

"They will be here and will face the charges and cooperate with the investigation," lawyer Nelia Jesusa Lingayan-Gonzales said in an interview.

She said her clients were "still in shock, coping with their parents' and sister's death" and were afraid that they would be arrested after the complaint against them was filed.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Western Visayas on Friday filed two counts of murder and a count of parricide against the brothers for the Jan. 8 killing of their father, Francisco "Bobby" Tan Jr., stepmother Cynthia Zayco-Tan and their half-sister Kathy.

The businessman was found dead on his bed in the master bedroom in the two-story family mansion in Molo district. Cynthia's body was found in Archie's room, adjacent to the master bedroom, while Kathy's body was found at the doorway of her parent's room.

All the victims bore multiple stab wounds in the chest. Investigators believed the victims were killed between 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Jan. 8 based on autopsy results.

The boys had told investigators that they had sneaked out of the house at around 12:45 a.m. on Jan. 9 to go barhopping and they discovered the victims' bodies when they returned home at around 3 a.m.

Police said evidence they had gathered and the testimonies of witnesses indicated that the brothers were in the house during the killings, thus providing probable cause for the filing of the complaints.

But Lingayan-Gonzales said there was no direct evidence linking her clients to the killings.

"The pieces of evidence they submitted were circumstantial and at this point there is no eyewitness account to the killings," she said.

Lingayan-Gonzales said her clients insisted they were "the victims, not the perpetrators."

Iloilo City Prosecutor Efrain Baldago said he assigned the case to Assistant City Prosecutor Jeremy Bionat to speed up the investigation.

The prosecutor's office issued subpoenas to the brothers late Friday and required them to submit their counter-affidavits within 10 days.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0211, series of 2006

90% of Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue ballots spurious–Loren

By Cynthia D. Balana

ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE BALLOTS FROM Lapu-Lapu City and Mandaue City in Cebu were found to be spurious in the ongoing recount for the 2004 vice presidential race, former Sen. Loren Legarda claimed yesterday.

Legarda issued the statement to belie the claim of President Macapagal-Arroyo that no evidence of fraud was uncovered in the two Visayan cities in the recount being undertaken by the Supreme Court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET).

The President had based her announcement on the report of her lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, who is also the lead counsel of Vice President Noli de Castro in the election protest filed by Legarda before the PET.

"I wish Attorney Macalintal would not resort to falsehoods, especially since as a lawyer, he is an officer of the court who should be the last to tell bare-faced lies," Legarda said.

Legarda said her lawyers, in fact, had made manifestations with the PET as to the spuriousness of the ballots from the two cities.

"The ballot-substitution in Cebu is yet another proof of measures undertaken to cover up the election fraud that had been committed in the 2004 elections to prop up my rival's illegitimate hold on office," Legarda said.

She said the real ballots from the two cities were clearly substituted with fakes so they would correspond with the similarly "spurious" results reflected in the election returns.

Legarda also said that many of the ballots were clearly filled up by the same group of people because of the striking similarities in the penmanship.

The ballot boxes from Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu also lacked security seals, an indication they were tampered with, she said.

The PET, however, has yet to rule on the Legarda camp's manifestations that the revision of ballots in Cebu has clearly shown evidence of ballot-substitution and other anomalies.

Legarda scored Macalintal for trying to preempt the PET by announcing that no evidence of fraud had been uncovered in Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue.

"What Attorney Macalintal has been saying is the exact opposite of what's happening at the PET," she said.

She insisted that her election protest had proven that the 2004 vice presidential election was marred by massive cheating to benefit De Castro.

She said that since the first day of the recount, her lawyers and revisors discovered that many election returns (ERs) used by Congress in canvassing the votes from Lanao del Sur did not match with the certified copies from the Commission on Election.

In the absence of fraud, the originals and the copies of election returns for the same polling precincts should match one another.

Is GMA coming to Asean tourism ministers' forum?

DAVAO CITY—THE ASEAN TOURISM FORUM (ATF) is set to formally open on Tuesday but President Macapagal-Arroyo has yet to confirm her attendance, according to organizers.

The ATF, which is the biggest tourism cooperation summit in Southeast Asia, kicked off here on Friday with the arrival of foreign and local delegates.

Tourism ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and officials from European-member countries, Japan, South Korea and China would be meeting here on Monday to discuss problems besetting the tourism industry, including terror threats.

Davao Host Council (DHC) vice chair Art Boncato said an invitation had been sent to Ms Arroyo but there was still no word from Malacañang on whether the chief executive would be coming.

Host city

Ms Arroyo personally endorsed Davao to be the host city of the 25th ATF after Burma (Myanmar) backed out and the Philippines agreed to host it.

Patmei Ruivivar, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's aide, said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano was the only top level government official who had confirmed his attendance at one of Asean's important events.

Ruivivar said the President could have decided not to come since tourism ministers will be representing the Asean governments at the forum, and not their chief executives.

The President was in Mindanao this week to inspect some government projects and to attend South Cotabato's anniversary celebration.

Teaching taxi drivers

For several weeks now, the local government has been sprucing up the city. Taxi drivers have been asked to memorize some English phrases including simple greetings.

Mayor Duterte met with taxi operators and instructed them to teach their drivers how to properly handle passengers, both local and foreign.

Julius Mahusay, 27, a taxi driver, said he posted a list of basic responses to the most common queries on his dashboard.

"I'll just try my very best to understand them (foreign visitors) and be understood," Eduardo Molina, another driver, said.

While taxi drivers were busy brushing up on their English, police authorities have been making the rounds of the city, trying to keep commercial sex workers, street children and mendicants out of sight.

Boncato said they were expecting at least 2,500 visitors and delegates to the event. Hotels in the city reported occupancy rates of 100 percent.

"Each of the 2,500 delegates is expected to spend $90 per day for an average four-day-three-night-stay enabling the city to rake in about P500 million," Boncato said. *Judy Quiros and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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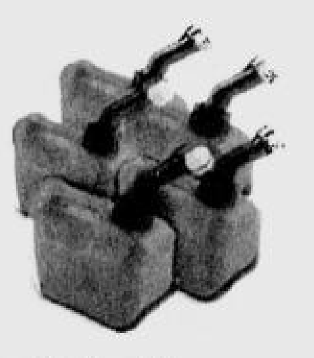

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AFP: Officer lack forced controversial appointment

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILippines (AFP) yesterday admitted it had no choice but to appoint controversial Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon as head of the Southern Command (Southcom) due to the dearth of senior officials qualified for key posts in the military.

AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin told reporters this was the reason senior officials who were close to retiring, like Habacon, had to assume important positions like Southcom chief before leaving the service.

"If we don't appoint people like General Habacon, who among the officers who have had division commands can assume the Southcom position? We will run out [of officers]. So these are necessary transition decisions that I think the secretary of national defense and even the President tried to consider," Bagasin said.

The appointment of Habacon has been strongly criticized as reeking of "political payback" after his name came up in the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

Bagasin, the third ranking officer in the AFP, said that around 56 generals were set to retire this year.

"By the time we retire in eight or nine months time, some people who are behind us should have gone through the necessary steps to take on higher positions (and) will have gone through division commands before they can take on positions in the unified commands," explained Bagasin, who himself is retiring in September.

He said the appointment of soon-to-retire officials will provide a sort of transition for the younger officers.

The other day, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, himself a former AFP chief of staff, objected to Habacon's designation as Southcom chief and Rear Admiral Tirso Danga's new assignment as Western Command (Wescom) chief.

Habacon's name was mentioned in the "Hello Garci" wiretapped recordings purportedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Critics said the conversations were proof of massive electoral cheating in the 2004 elections.

At the time of the alleged wiretapping, Danga was chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), which was said to be the source of the wiretapped recordings.

Habacon has denied involvement in rigging the elections while Danga said Isafp did not have the capability to conduct wiretapping operations.

Another officer mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, was named Army commander in August 2005.

Habacon's appointment also raised eyebrows as he was perceived to have jumped over several more senior officers despite having only nine months left before retiring.

His appointment came before the AFP's Inspector General could release the findings of an internal probe it conducted to investigate the alleged role of military personnel in electoral fraud.

Southcom, the largest command in terms of area of coverage and troop deployment, is considered a prime assignment for senior generals.

Despite objections from lawmakers, Bagasin said the AFP leadership was standing by the integrity of Habacon and Danga.

He said the two officers should be "presumed innocent" until proven guilty of electoral fraud.

HE'S BACK

Seventeen years after eluding the military, renegade Zamboanga City policeman Rizal Alih arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday, apparently after being deported by authorities in Malaysia where he had served eight years of a 14-year jail sentence for illegal possession of weapons. Alih had led a band of renegade policemen and soldiers in taking over the regional headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary in Zamboanga City in January 1989, taking hostage Brig. Gen. Eduardo Batalla, the regional commander. The camp burned down in a botched rescue operation in which 14 renegades and two hostages were killed. Alih surfaced in Malaysia in 1990s. There he was jailed until his release. Alih was escorted by five Malaysian police officers when he emerged from a Malaysian Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur. Alih, now 60, was to be detained at Camp Crame where he faces multiple murder charges. ROGER MARGALLO

Workers struggle to clean up oil spill

A MONTH AFTER A NATIONAL POWer Corp. barge ran aground causing a massive oil spill in Barangay Semirara, Antique, workers are still struggling to save 226 hectares of mangroves which represent life or death for communities in the area.

The marine life that used to inhabit the area have died, according to the Philippine Coast Guard. Cleanup operations are now focused on the mangroves that are coated in oil, contaminated with most of the 198,000 liters of bunker oil that spilled from the barge.

"We still expect to save the mangroves, but we have to work fast. If we don't remove the oil, the mangroves will die," said PCG spokesperson Commander Joseph Coyme. "We don't want that to happen because we know the communities depend on these mangroves for their livelihood."

The PCG had initially reported that 162,000 liters of oil had leaked into the sea, but it amended the figure after the barge was brought to a shipyard and examined. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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3. Condo/Unit 3B Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/ parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 323.69	8,092,250
4. Condo/Unit 9B Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 333.2	8,996,400
5. Condo/Unit 9C Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 347.67	9,387,000
6. Unit 502 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road (with 1 parking slot)	FA -172.69	2,500,000
7. Unit 503 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road (with 1 parking slot)	FA - 164.62	2,500,000
8. Townhouse/L 1 & 2, B2 Action Lane cor Banner St. cor Stet St., 4th Estate Subd., Brgy San Dionisio Under lease*	LA - 705 FA - 914.62	8,500,000
9. Townhouse/No.25 MJS Ave. & LPL Ave., Levitown Subd., La Huerta	LA - 801 FA - 182.7	6,114,240
MAKATI		
10. Unit 512/Makati Prime Citadel P. Burgos	FA - 43	1,505,000
KALOOKAN		
11. Lot 8, Block 2, Road Lot 2, Perpetual Subdivision, Bagumbong	LA - 240	312,000
LAGUNA		
12. Lot/Pamplona St. Bo. Bucal Lecheria Calamba	LA - 34,750	41,700,000
13. Lot 29-B, Block 4, Road Lot 2 cor Road Lot 4 Monte Cecilia Subd. Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao	LA - 1,356	2,034,000
BULACAN		
14. Townhouse/L 2, B 7, Richmond Vill. Brgy Bahay Pare, Meycauayan	LA - 252 FA - 283.5	2,500,000
CAVITE		
15. Townhouse/Lot 25, Blk 30 Tangile St. Greenbreeze 1 Subd., Bo. Lancaan Dasmariñas	LA - 514 FA - 297	1,500,000
16. Townhouse/Lot 6,7 & 8, Blk B No. 10 Progressive Vill 7 Subd. San Nicolas, Bacoor	LA - 740 FA - 352.10	3,500,000
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17. Lot 16, Block 5, Oakwood Street	LA - 367	1,284,500
18. Lot 30, Block 7, Cottonwood Drive	LA - 366	1,281,000
19. Lot 2, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
20. Lot 3, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
21. Lot 4, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
22. Lot 8, Block 3, Foliage Hills	LA - 317	1,109,500

RESIDENTIAL /COMMERCIAL (MIXED USE)

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
MALABON		
41. Res'l/Comml Bldg/Lot 25-A-3 RDC Compound, Reparo Road	LA - 1,000 FA - 3,712	23,719,400
PARAÑAQUE		
42. 4Sty Res'l/Com'l Bldg/East Srvce Rd UPS 1, Ibayo(1 grd unit under lease)	LA - 360 FA-1,102.49	10,000,000

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COMMERCIAL

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
MAKATI		
23. Condo/Unit 7A ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots	FA - 325.2	10,406,400
24. Condo/Unit 8A ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots	FA - 325.2	10,406,400
25. Condo/Unit 1, 7th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 384	13,440,000
26. Condo/Unit 2, 7th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 339	11,865,000
27. Condo/Unit 1, 17th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
28. Condo/Unit 1, 19th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
29. Condo/Unit 1, 20th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
30. Condo/Unit 2, 20th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 367	12,845,000
31. Condo/Unit 3B ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots. Under lease*	FA - 280.53	8,415,900
CAVITE		
32. Agrifarm/Rwlnd, Bo. Toclong, Kawit *no right of way	LA - 18,457	7,382,800
PASIG		
33. Condo/Unit 1506,15F The Centerpoint Garnet cor J. Vargas Streets Ortigas Center (w/ parking slot) Under lease*	FA - 170	5,740,000
34. Condo/Unit C, 9F Strata 2000 Condo Emerald & Garnet Sts. Ortigas Center Under lease*	FA - 250	6,500,000
PASAY CITY		
35. San Rafael, Roxas Boulevard	LA - 3,020	108,720,000
ANTIPOLO		
36. Lots 2-I-1 & 2-J Marcos Highway Bo. Munang	LA - 29,208	52,574,400
37. Memorial Lots/2,396 Lawn lots Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II Sapinit Rd, Sitio Palanas, Bgy Sn Juan		P13,898/unit
38. Memorial Lots/14 units (56 lots) single niche Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II, Sapinit Rd, Sitio Palanas		P58,040/unit 4 lots per unit
39. Memorial Lots/73 units (1,095 lots) garden estate, Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II, Sapinit Rd. Sitio Palanas, Brgy San Juan		P217,650/unit 15 lots per unit
BULACAN		
40. Agrifarm/Rawlnd, Skyline Road Sitio Tungkong Mangga, Bo. Gaya-Gaya San Jose del Monte	LA - 11,904.3 FA - 3,515	16,000,000

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DOLE: Plan on tap to maintain Pinoys' dominance of seas

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES NEEDS TO IMprove its seamanship and maritime officer training courses and entice more Filipinos into entering the trade if the country is to maintain its dominance in manning the world's shipping industry, Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

Sto. Tomas said the President had ordered her to coordinate with the Commission on Higher Education and the Professional Regulation Commission in setting up a program that would strengthen the country's capability to supply the global maritime industry with adequately trained seamen and merchant marine officers.

The global industry would need some 35,000 officers in the next five to 10 years, and the program she envisioned to meet that demand would include ways of enabling graduates of mechanical or electrical engineering courses to become maritime officers, Sto. Tomas said.

In general, the thrust will emphasize the right academic preparation and encourage seamen to work toward upgrading themselves to officer rank.

Last year, contracts processed for overseas Filipino seafarers reached 302,328—10,812 more than in 2004—showing "a robust preference and demand for their skills in global shipping," Sto. Tomas said.

The number comprised nearly one-third of the 981,337 overseas employment contracts processed in 2005 for both land- and sea-based overseas Filipino workers.

Sto. Tomas said the international shipping industry's preference for Filipino seamen, who comprise some 25 percent of the world's seafarers, was anchored on the Philippines' continuous efforts to ensure compliance with the International Maritime Organization's standards of training, certification and watch-keeping.

Earlier, the deputy chief of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, disclosed that the number of enrollees in maritime courses was dwindling, as more and more students were going for nursing and information technology degrees.

Plinky Recto case judge asked to inhibit self

BACOLOD CITY—THE LAWYER of Marie Roxanne "Plinky" Recto on Thursday asked Bago Regional Trial Court Judge Henry Trocino to inhibit himself from the case filed against the television personality by her former live-in partner.

Lawyer Rowena Guanzon, in her motion for prohibition, accused Trocino of "bad faith, malice, glaring partiality, gross ignorance of the law and blatant violation of the rule of custody and the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004."

Trocino had granted temporary custody of Recto's 15-month-old child to her ex-lover, a prominent businessman from Negros Occidental.

The motion, which Guanzon filed before the Bago City RTC, asked Trocino to cancel the Oct. 18 pre-trial of the case filed by Recto's former lover for child custody, and instead hear her bid for the judge to inhibit himself from hearing the case.

Guanzon said Trocino issued a Temporary Protection Order (TPO) to Recto's former partner granting him custody of their child on Jan. 3 based on the Anti-VAWC.

Guanzon said the law was supposed to protect women and children, but Trocino used it against "a woman and a mother."

"Thus we are tasked not only to protect Recto and her son but also [to protect] the Anti-VAWC from being used by the very same men against whom the law gives women the remedy on a Temporary and Permanent Protection Order," Guanzon said in the motion for inhibition.

She pointed out that when Trocino acted on the petition of the former lover, Recto already had a pending case against him, which included a petition for custody of her child, before the Mandaluyong RTC. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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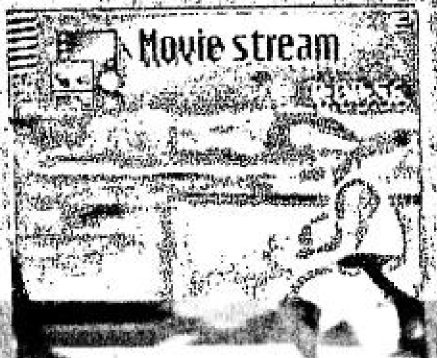
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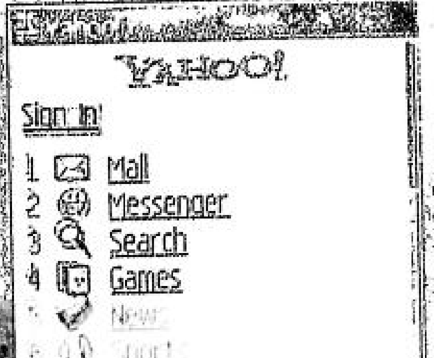
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Assassins return to Abra with mayor's slay

By Artha Kira Paredes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGUED, ABRA – ABRA'S POLITICAL assassins had been silent for more than a year until Friday night when they struck in a town whose name means "peace," claiming their latest casualty.

Relatives of La Paz Mayor Marc Ysrael Bernos, who at 31 was the youngest mayor and most vocal opposition official in the province, blamed politics for the slaying.

Politically motivated

"Our initial assessment is that the killing was politically motivated and partly perhaps of vengeance," said former Abra Gov. Andres Bernos, the mayor's father.

Mayor Bernos was shot in the nape as he was watched a basketball game at the La Paz town plaza at 7:15 p.m. on Friday.

A sports fan, Bernos had organized the basketball tournament as part of the celebration of the feast of the town's patroness, Our Lady of Peace, on Jan. 24.

A conspiracy

The elder Bernos said the family suspected the killing was a conspiracy between two people "who had an ax to grind against my son."

"Witnesses who saw the suspect fleeing said he resembled a bodyguard of someone who had lost to Ysrael. But I am not naming names," he said.

Bernos left behind three children aged 5, 3 and 1.

Abra leaders and Bernos' political opponents decried the murder and urged the police to solve it quickly.

Slaying condemned

Domingo Bernos, an uncle who ran for mayor against his nephew in 2001, condemned the slaying.

"I abhor what happened to my nephew. He was, after all, a very close relative, my brother's son. I could not even finish eating last night when I received a text message informing me that he was already dead," Domingo said.

"While it is true that we were political adversaries, politics is politics and all we ever had were word wars, war of words," he said.

Unknown motives

Abra police director Senior Supt. Marcelo Manalo said the police were looking into motives for the killing.

"We are not yet sure of the [motive]. We are still focusing on [various] angles," Manalo told the INQUIRER.

He said police recovered a .45-cal pistol and M-16 Armalite rifle shells at the town plaza, a few meters from where Bernos was shot.

The gunman was described as between 25 and 35 years old, about five feet, four inches in height, thin with a dark complexion.

He reportedly had a companion who fired the Armalite to create a distraction after Bernos was shot.

Bernos had once told the INQUIRER a P5-million bounty had been placed on his head by his enemies.

3rd mayor killed

He was the third Abra mayor killed in the last four years.

In 2002, Tineg Mayor Clarence Benwaren, a friend of Bernos', was gunned down in a church in Calauan, Laguna. In 2001, Tubo Mayor Jose Segundo was killed by suspected NPA rebels in his town.

A law enforcement task force has been providing security in Abra since 2004 after Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes withdrew all the policemen assigned to the province.

Cops moonlighting

Many cops, investigation showed, had been moonlighting as members of the private armies of local politicians who were believed behind many of the killings in the province. A few of the policemen have since been reinstated. *With a report from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GMA has not junked peace talks with Reds, says Palace adviser

LUCENA CITY – AN OFFICIAL IN the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) has refuted the claim made by a top Army officer that President Macapagal-Arroyo had abandoned the peace negotiations with the communist insurgents.

"That's not true as President Arroyo will never abandon the peace process," said Rolly Asuncion, Director IV-Peace Institutions Development Office under the OPAPP, during the Youth Aid Peace Leaders seminar held here yesterday.

Asuncion said Malacañang had even expressed optimism the informal round of negotiations with the communist National Democratic Front would resume in March.

Early resumption

He said Oslo had been doing its best to get the government and NDF peace panels together for a possible early resumption of the peace talks. Norway had hosted the first part of the talks.

On Friday, Army chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the President had ruled out resuming the stalled peace talks with the communist rebels, a signal that the government was focused on eliminating the long-term security threat posed by the rebels by using the full force of the military against them.

Esperon cited as a reason for the President's decision the New People's Army rebels taking advantage of the government's grant of security and immunity guarantees to them by conducting propaganda and organizing work.

Asuncion said Esperon could have been "misquoted" in the news report.

He said the general might have also misunderstood President Arroyo's statement.

Several youth participants in the peace seminar voiced their opposition to the scrapping of the peace talks.

Youth fed up

"The NDF and the government should resume the peace talks and wage their battle at the negotiation table. The country's youth are now fed up with this senseless war," said Mark Oliver Jalimao, spokesperson of the Quezon Youth Development Council.

For Eric de la Peña, chair of Montalban Youth Foundation based in Rizal province, Esperon's statement was part of the military's "psywar tactics" against the communist guerrillas.

"But that is an ominous sign," he told his fellow youth participants.

The seminar participants vowed to continue to pressure the government and the communist rebels to give the peace negotiations another chance.

"We don't need war. What this country needs is freedom from hunger, fear, exclusion and humiliation," one of the youths said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Politics eyed in La Union Comelec official's slay

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE SUSPECT POLITICS AS the likely motive for the killing of an official of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in La Union on Thursday.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao said Filemon Asperin Jr.'s work as a Comelec official in Agoo, La Union, might have led to his assassination.

But Lomibao said that police investigators were also looking at other angles.

"We will seriously look into the angle of politics as a motive because as a Comelec official, his work was election-related and political in nature. However, we will also look at other angles," Lomibao said in a statement yesterday.

Unidentified gunman

Asperin was shot by an unidentified gunman in front of the Comelec office in Central East, Bauang, La Union on Jan. 12.

Initial investigation showed he was about to board a van when he was shot in the head by one of two suspects on a motorcycle. After the shooting, the two suspects sped away.

Lomibao said he had ordered the creation of a task force to investigate the killing.

The task force is composed of elements from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the Intelligence Group (IG), the PNP Crime Laboratory and the La Union PNP.

Yesterday, Lomibao visited the wake for Asperin at his residence in Agoo.

He assured the victim's family the task force would "leave no stone unturned" in its investigation.

The PNP chief also noted that there have been "previous killings in La Union that remained unsolved and information had been going around pointing to politics as being behind the killings."

Witnesses afraid

Lomibao said witnesses to the crime were afraid to come out to testify. Nonetheless, he designated Chief Supt. Pete Tango, officer in charge of the CIDG is to "get to the bottom of these cases and spare no one who are involved no matter how high or low they are in stature."

Lomibao also said he had directed the PNP Region 1 office, the La Union police, the CIDG and the IG "to conduct an aggressive manhunt until every single killer was arrested and neutralized."

He appointed Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, PNP Deputy Chief for Operations, to oversee the manhunt.

"We appeal to concerned citizens to come out in the open and help us put an end to these senseless killings. If indeed politics is the motive, the next elections are still far and how many more people will be killed or sacrificed," Lomibao said.

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TRI-ISYS INTERNET GARNERED AWARDS AS LEADING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

2005 proved to be a great year for Tri-Isys Internet, makers of ISPx Bonanza Prepaid Internet card and Powersurf Postpaid Plan. Their products received two of the most prestigious awards given to local companies. These are the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards and National Shoppers' Choice Awards. The **Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards (PMEA)** cited **ISPx Bonanza** as the **Most Outstanding Prepaid Internet Card** in Metro Manila. The PMEA is composed of Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute, Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship together with Marketing Insights Magazine. It recognizes ISPx Bonanza's "outstanding marketing performances leading towards market dominance, goodwill, high-level customer confidence and market acceptability. The awards night was held last November 14 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's congratulates all awardees with this message, *"this year's awardees have shown us how to excel in a highly competitive environment. They have been successful in establishing market presence and high customer confidence... which in turn benefited consumers in terms of better quality products at the best price possible."*

The 2005 National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards (NSCAA) gave recognition to **Tri-Isys Powersurf** as **Number 1 Postpaid Internet** in the Metro category. Now on its 3rd year, the NSCAA pays tribute to the most outstanding brands and companies in the country. It is conferred by the Asia Pacific Shoppers' Choice Institute, Shoppers' Choice Magazine, Essence Privilege Card, Hernz KPMR Marketing Inc. and the Asian-Philippine Association of Marketing Professionals. Chairman of the NSCAA Atty. Manuel Oyson has this to say, *"it is with utmost pride that we continue to honor and recognize the best businesses today... a celebration of excellence. A tribute to all of you who have won the hearts of your customers."* Each year, the award giving body aims to motivate the recognized companies by continuing to raise the bar of excellence for the consumers' benefit.

This year, Tri-Isys Internet will usher in new value-added services to cater to the various technological needs of its market. Affordable pricing and reliable service will still be the commitment of the company to its increasing subscriber base. Being the industry leader poses a challenge to develop more opportunities for growth and introduce quality innovations. As part of our social responsibility, we are going to support He Cares Foundation by giving away computer units for less fortunate children. Tri-Isys will remain steadfast in its pursuit of dedicated excellence and salutes all its consumers for their trust and loyalty.

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ATF2006
DAVAO
PHILIPPINES
The Many Faces of ASEAN

ASEAN TOURISM FORUM

January 13 - 21, 2006
Davao City
Philippines

Message

I wish to welcome all the participants of the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2006 to this beautiful city of Davao, Philippines.

I also wish to extend my felicitations to the organisers of this Forum, the Department of Tourism, Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation, local government and private sector of Davao City

The theme for this year's ASEAN Tourism Forum, "Celebrating the Many Faces of ASEAN" aptly describes ASEAN. It is a community known for its great andich diversity in flora, fauna, language, religion, history and culture. Diversity in culture and destination has provided ASEAN its competitive edge in tourism.

ASEAN's diversity is just one of its many facets. There is also the important dimension of a community united by a common aspiration to attain durable peace and stability and shared prosperity for the region and people, also known as ASEAN Vision 2020. Consistent with this vision is the goal of evolving an integrated, peaceful and caring ASEAN Community. The Vientiane Action Program (2004-2010), in its roadmap, has identified tourism as one of the priority sectors for economic integration.

The tourism sector has in recent years faced political and financial challenges, health crises and natural disasters. But these challenges have also brought to fore another dimension of ASEAN, that of an enduring and committed association working in solidarity to address the many challenges of the region in this globalised world.

ASEAN tourism will continue to face many more challenges. But with efforts, such as this Forum, to facilitate intra-regional travel and enhanced cooperation in tourism, I am confident that ASEAN tourism will continue to play a vital role in the economic growth and development of the ASEAN Community.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

Message

Dear ASEAN Tourism Forum 2006 Delegates,

It is with profound pleasure that I welcome all participants of the ASEAN TOURISM FORUM (ATF) in exotic Davao City, Philippines. I also wish to convey my warmest felicitations to the organisers from both the government and our private sector partners, as well as the people of Davao City for their untiring effort in making this event a reality. It is in this remarkable display of cooperation and unity that we see a resurgence of a sense of community and mutual responsibility that ensure success in every undertaking.

I take this opportunity to express gratitude to the government of Myanmar for graciously turning over to the Philippines the hosting of ATF 2006, thereby ensuring the perpetuation of the ideals and goals that ATF stands for. As Myanmar aptly put it, it is about "strengthening partnerships towards peace, prosperity and progress" among its 10 member-countries. Today we proudly come together as one solid community working towards a common goal of a strong and productive ASEAN.

As we go about our prospective businesses at the ATF, we are confident that ASEAN's rich showcase of diverse cultures sown by its collective commonalities – rich heritage, exotic natural endowments amid sophisticated destinations and fascinating people – will be appreciated by our international buyers from major travel markets as premium product offerings that ensure high marketability.

As we "celebrate the many faces of ASEAN" in Davao City, it is my earnest hope that everyone accelerates business opportunities in this year's gathering, and in the process, experience how the Philippines and the whole of ASEAN have evolved and developed over the years in terms of tourism destinations, travel facilities and services for the global community to enjoy.

Mabuhay!

JOSEPH H. DURANO
Secretary, Philippine Department of Tourism
Chairman, ATF 2006 - Philippines Host Committee

Message

MADAYAW!

We welcome you to Davao, a melting pot of diverse migrant and indigenous peoples whose cultures are woven into a rich tapestry of ethnic and contemporary lifestyles manifested in art, literature, cuisine, music and festivities.

Davao is the Philippines' "City in Bloom" blessed with a bounty of natural gifts ranging from fertile fruit plantations, lush orchid farms, majestic mountain ranges, pristine white sand beaches to a bustling urban centre where modern conveniences are within reach.

In fact, three of the country's most treasured natural gems are found in Davao, making it a must-see destination. The city has the best access to the country's highest peak, the Mount Apo that is the original habitat of our national bird and second largest eaglein the world, the Philippine Eagle, and national flower, the Waling-waling orchid.

Moreover, our city takes pride in being recognised as one of the cleanest and greenest in the country as well as having the second best potable water in the world. We were named one of the most livable cities in Asia by Asiaweek Magazine and the most competitive to do business in, in the Philippines by the Asian Institute of Management. In addition, we are privileged that our 911 Integrated Emergency Response Network makes us one of only three areas in the world after the US andCanada to activate such an effective programme that ensures security in the city that now enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the world.

Meanwhile, we also take pride in our annual "Kadayawan Festival", the biggest thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest held in August where street dancing, floral float parade and showcase of indigenous peoples' cultures are highlighted. This weeklong festivity never fails to give visitors an exhilarating experience which you will also experience in the colourful and exciting events we have prepared for you.

Indeed, we are happy to host the 2006 ASEAN Tourism Forum and we invite you to discover Davao City during your stay with us.

RODRIGO R. DUTERTE
Mayor, Davao City
Chairman, ATF 2006 - Davao Host Council

Davao takes pride in hosting the Asean Tourism Forum welcoming an estimated 3000 foreign delegates.

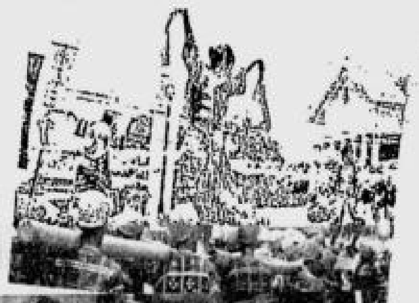
The Many Faces of ASEAN brings into perspective the strides the multifaceted organisation has initiated in bringing to life the principle of Unity in Diversity in constant pursuit of cohesive and cooperative regional progress.

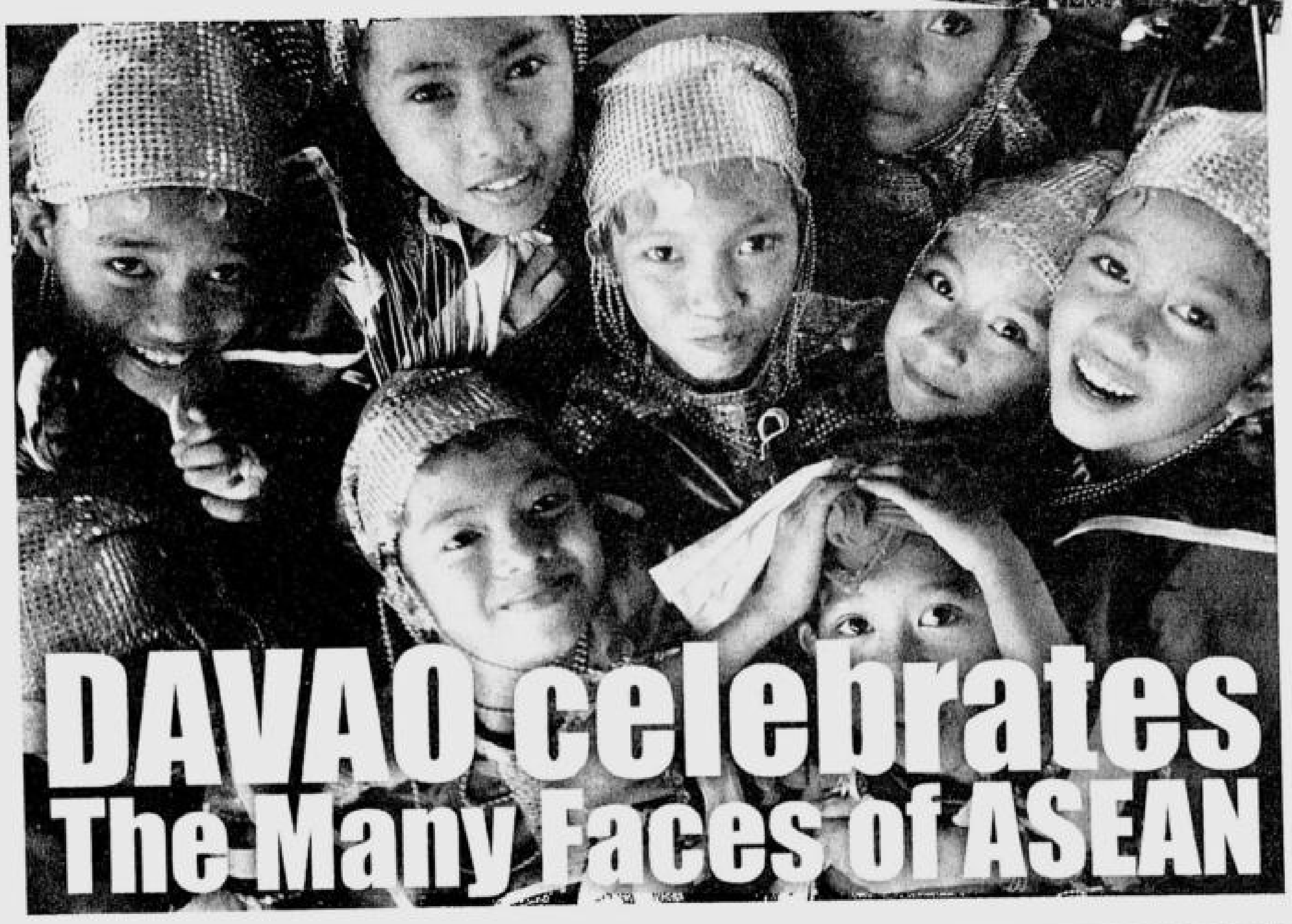
Despite the volatility of ASEAN tourism tremendously threatened by several challenges in recent years, the ties of solidarity that bind the people of the 10 ASEAN member-countries have stood firm in the commitment to enhance mutual cooperation and support as a unified ASEAN region.

ATF 2006 Davao City, Philippines, ushers in the opportunities to integrate and explore the myriad resources that the region is distinctively endowed with.Strengthening the Many Faces of ASEAN calls for government and private sector participation to reconcile national and regional tourism issues and concerns. The time has come to forge attainable and sustainable ASEAN tourism policies and priorities on product development, packaging, marketing of emerging destinations, and promotion of seamless travel within the region. ASEAN's tourism communications machinery should be honed to effectively transmit to the international community objective situations in the region.

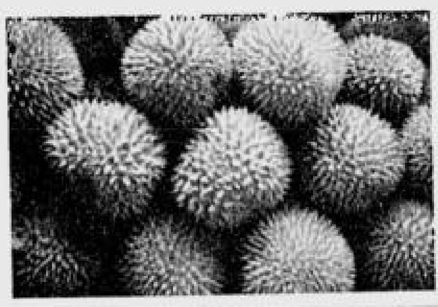
As we head on to the ATF Travel Exchange (TRAVEX), the 10 member-countries will offer an array of competitive products and services to the international markets by focusing on the Many Faces of ASEAN.

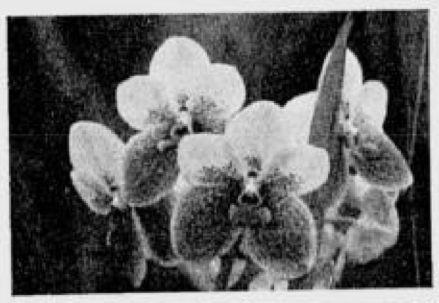
Now more than ever, as we embrace the challenges of the future, we need to hold hands and meet the world in Celebrating the Many Faces of ASEAN as we welcome officials, delegates, and friends to the silver anniversary of the ASEAN Tourism Forum in Davao City.

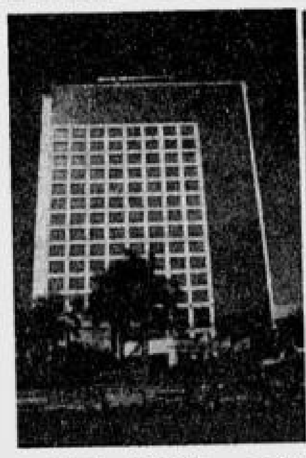


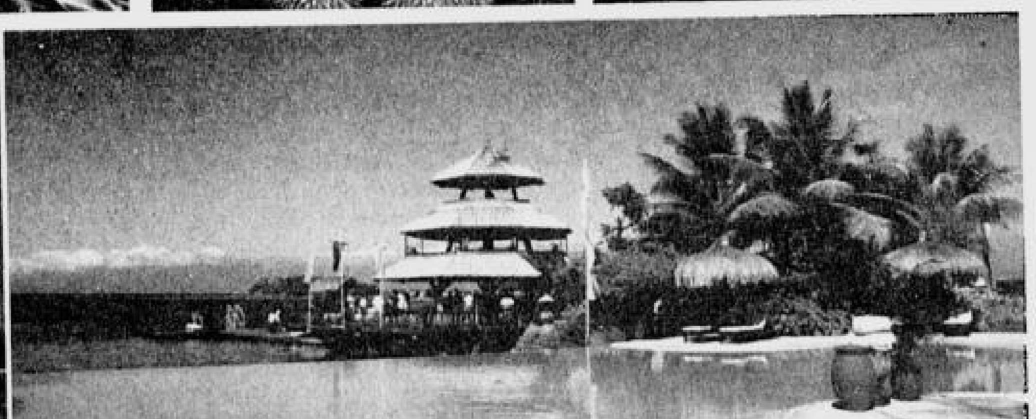


DAVAO celebrates
The Many Faces of ASEAN









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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Zawahiri killed in Pakistan air strike?

18 people killed as US drone hits border village

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN IS INvestigating whether al-Qaida deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a deadly US air strike on a village near the Afghan border, Pakistani and US officials said Saturday.

US Central Intelligence Agency sources said they had unconfirmed indications that a high-level target, possibly Osama bin Laden's Egyptian number two and chief ideologue, was killed by a US Predator drone in Pakistan.

"We are investigating and as of now we are not in a position to say yes or no," Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, the spokesperson for President Pervez Musharraf and for Pakistan's military, said when asked to confirm whether Zawahiri was killed in the strike.

"The investigation is going on as to what happened there," Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid said, without elaborating. He refused to comment on whether Zawahiri may have been involved.

At least 18 people including women and children died when missiles hit the village of Damadola, part of Mamund town in northwestern Pakistan's restive Bajur tribal region bordering Afghanistan early Friday, residents said.

Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao said a number of the dead appeared to be foreigners with suspected terror links.

"It seems there were some people who were not locals and they were possibly involved in sabotage activities. Most of the bodies were charred," Sherpao told AFP.

"But we have no information about Zawahiri. We are investigating what caused the explosions."

US intelligence sources told AFP here that the CIA had indications that a top al-Qaida operative—maybe Zawahiri—might have died in an attack by a remotely-piloted US drone.

"The CIA has indications that a high-level al-Qaida operative was killed by a Predator strike in Bajur. They are confirming an operation in Bajur," one of the sources told AFP on condition of anonymity.

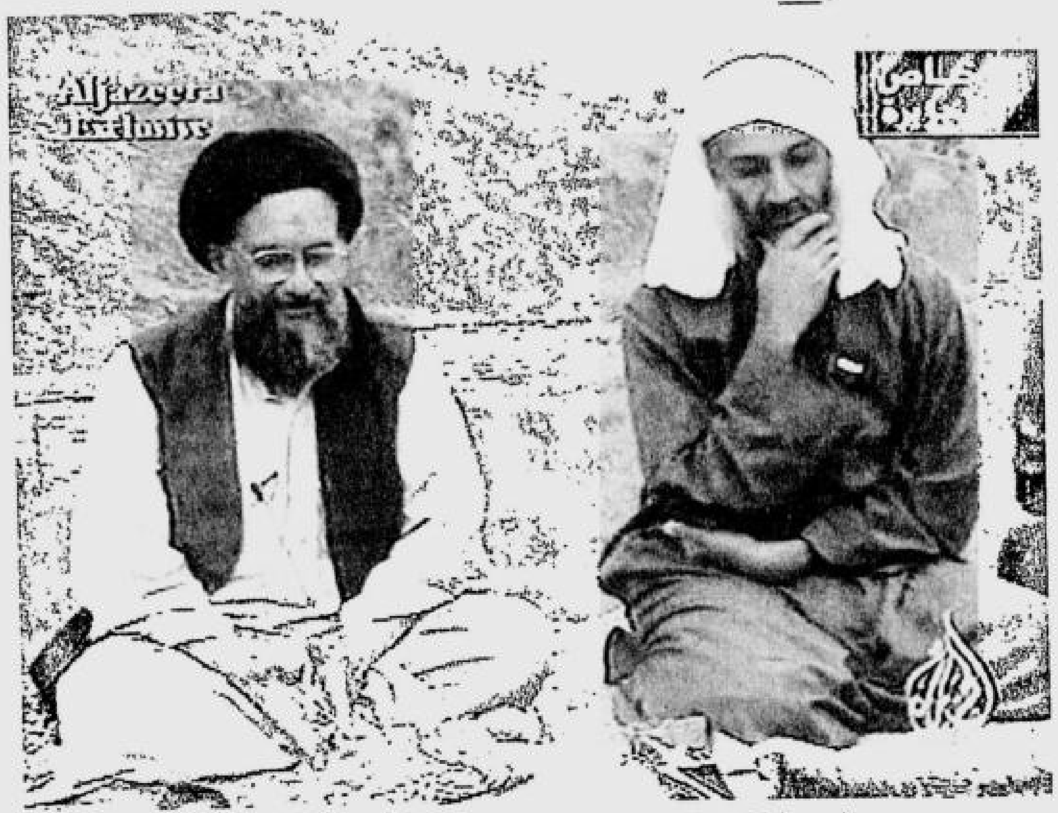
"They say the strike may have killed Zawahiri."

The US Defense Department denied that the US military had carried out any attacks in the area. "There is no reason to believe the US military is conducting operations there," said Lt. Col. Todd Vician.

Villagers in Damadola said they heard aircraft or helicopters before the strike and that the only victims were local people.

The target was a cluster of three houses owned by a jeweller named Abdul Ghafoor, whose relatives were among the victims, resident Waheed Gul said by telephone.

"According to our information there were no foreigners among the 18 who were martyred in the attack," Gul said. *AFP*



OSAMA bin Laden, right, listens as his top deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri speaks at an undisclosed location in this image from an Al-Jazeera broadcast on April 15, 2002. AP

Al-Qaida No. 2 the brains behind Osama bin Laden

ISLAMABAD—DOCTOR AND SURgeon Ayman al-Zawahiri is the brains behind Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network and most recently its public face, repeatedly denouncing the United States and its allies in widely aired video messages.

Bespectacled, with grey hair and a grey beard, the Egyptian doctor in his mid-50s is second after Bin Laden on the FBI's list of "most wanted terrorists."

Both men have a price of up to $25 million on their heads.

They eluded capture when US-led forces toppled Afghanistan's Taliban government in late 2001 after al-Qaida's Sept. 11 attacks on US cities.

Zawahiri has appeared in a series of video or audio messages in the past year, criticizing the US war in Iraq, praising the Taliban and the July 7 London bombers and also urging Muslims to help victims of Pakistan's Oct. 8 earthquake.

In the most recent video, broadcast by Arabic television station Al Jazeera on Jan. 6, Zawahiri said US President George W. Bush's plan to withdraw troops from Iraq meant Washington had been defeated by the Muslims.

Analysts have described Zawahiri as al-Qaida's chief organizer and Bin Laden's closest mentor. "Ayman is for Bin Laden like the brain to the body," said Montasser al-Zayat, a lawyer in Cairo who once represented Zawahiri.

Zawahiri and Bin Laden met in the mid-1980s when both were in the Pakistani city of Peshawar to support guerrillas fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, and worked closely thereafter. But the alliance was not Zawahiri's first foray into militancy.

Born in 1951 to a prominent Cairo family, he was the son of a pharmacology professor and grandson of the grand imam of Al Azhar, one of the most important mosques in the Muslim world.

He graduated from Egypt's most prestigious medical school in 1974 and did a second degree in surgery. By then he was involved with the Muslim Brotherhood, a nonviolent group seeking the creation of a single Islamic state.

When the militant Egyptian Islamic Jihad was founded in 1973, he joined. When members posed as soldiers and assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, he was among 301 people arrested.

He went on trial but was cleared. He did, though, spend three years in jail for having an unlicensed pistol. On his release, Zawahiri made his way to Pakistan where he worked with the Red Crescent treating fighters wounded in the Afghan war.

Taking over the leadership of Jihad in Egypt in 1993, he was a key figure in a campaign in the mid-1990s to set up a purist Islamic state there, in which more than 1,200 Egyptians died. *Reuters*

Bush says Iran would be threat to world if it has nuke weapons

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush said Friday that Iran would be a threat to the world if it had a nuclear weapon but that he wanted a diplomatic solution to the crisis with the Islamic Republic.

Speaking after talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Bush said that the United States and its European allies believed a nuclear armed Iran was "unacceptable" and that going to the UN Security Council would be the "logical" next step.

"The reason it's unacceptable is because Iran armed with a nuclear weapon poses a grave threat to the security of the world," Bush told a press conference.

He highlighted how Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for the destruction of Israel. "And that's unacceptable," declared the US leader.

"And the development of a nuclear weapon seems to me would make them a step closer to achieving that objective."

Highlighting the new rapprochement in German-US ties, Merkel said Western countries "will not be intimidated" by Iran's decision to resume sensitive nuclear research.

Germany, Britain and France have led efforts over the past two years to negotiate with Iran over its nuclear program, which the European allies and the United States believe is intended to produce a nuclear weapon.

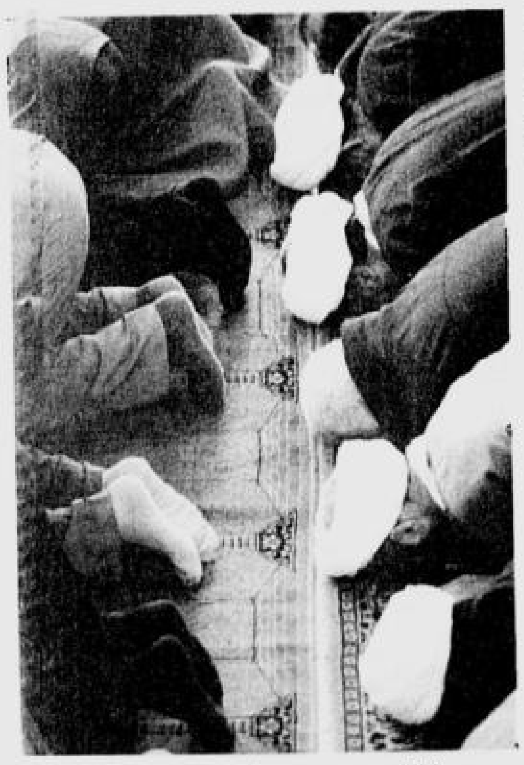
Ahmadinejad said Friday that Iran will not back down from its nuclear program, which his country insists is peaceful.

Representatives of the European Union, United States, China and Russia are to hold talks on Iran in London on Monday. They are expected to set a date for a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which could refer the case to the UN Security Council.

Bush made no mention of any possible sanctions and stressed the need to search for a diplomatic solution.

The US president said that he and Merkel "spent some time talking about the Iranian issue and the desire to solve this issue diplomatically—by working together."

Bush said he would not "prejudge what the United Nations Security Council should do" and also emphasized the multilateral stance that has also been stressed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. *AFP*



IRANIAN men at Friday prayers at Tehran University, Jan. 13 in Tehran. AFP

Prober: Europe complicit in CIA 'dirty work'

BURGDORF, SWITZERLAND—A Swiss investigator said on Friday European governments had been complicit in illegal CIA activities in the "war on terror," after reports that the Americans ran secret prisons in Europe.

Swiss Sen. Dick Marty, investigating the allegations for the 46-nation rights group Council of Europe, said he was personally convinced of the existence of the detention centers but had yet to come up with concrete proof.

"It's not possible to transport people from one place to another in such a manner without the secret services knowing about it," he said. "What was shocking was the passivity with which we all, in Europe, have welcomed these things."

Marty is to present a preliminary report to the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe on Jan. 23 over reports the Americans ran centers in eastern Europe where suspects where interrogated, tortured or transported to other countries in a process Washington calls "rendition."

"Europeans should be less hypocritical and not turn a blind eye," he said at a news briefing. "There are those who do the dirty work abroad but there are also those who know when they should close their eyes when that dirty work is being done."

Marty referred to the case of an Egyptian cleric alleged to have been kidnapped by the CIA in Milan in 2003 and transported to Egypt, where the man later said he was tortured.

A Milan court last month issued a European arrest warrant for 22 CIA agents suspected of involvement in the case. Italy's government has strongly denied knowledge of the operation.

The Milan case is one of several investigations into whether US agents used Europe to illegally transfer militant suspects to third countries for interrogation.

"The proof is completely clear and the CIA has never denied it," Marty said.

Romania, Poland and others have denied they let the United States hold terrorism suspects on their territory. The US government has neither denied nor confirmed the reports of secret jails, first made by the Washington Post in November.

"This is not just a problem for Romania and Poland," Marty said. "It's not acceptable to criminalize these two countries.

"It's all Europe which has been willingly silent on the matter."

Marty said he was convinced of the existence of secret US detention centers in Europe. But his investigation would probably not be completed for another 12 months as he seeks more evidence.

"It's not like Guantanamo Bay," he said, but more like "empty rooms where people have been interrogated or tortured or taken somewhere else." *Reuters*

LOU RAWLS STILLED

Nina Rawls, widow of singer Lou Rawls, at the funeral of her late husband in Los Angeles Jan. 13. Rawls, whose unique voice was stilled by cancer on Jan. 6, will be remembered as a talented and confident performer who succeeded on many levels, not only in the range of songs he performed, but in the many ways he helped others. AP

Don't wait to blow whistle, says Ellsberg, who leaked Pentagon Papers

By Linda Deutsch

PALM DESERT, CALIFORnia—Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers 35 years ago, said Friday that whistleblowers shouldn't be afraid to reveal government secrets in an effort to save people's lives, even if it means going to jail.

"Don't do what I did," Ellsberg said. "Don't wait until the bombs are falling in Iran. Don't wait until people are dying. Go to the press and reveal."

Ellsberg told the American Bar Association's Forum on Communications Law that he waited nearly two years before handing over the top secret study of the Vietnam War to The New York Times in 1971.

"I wasted 22 months," he said, advising others planning to leak materials to "take your risks and go to prison if it means saving lives."

He compared the Pentagon Papers revelations to the recent New York Times disclosures that President Bush had authorized wiretapping the phone conversations of US citizens without court authorization. He also noted that the Times has acknowledged holding that story for a year at the White House's request.

In an interview following his talk, Ellsberg said he believes that by withholding the story the Times played a role in Bush's reelection.

"We had a lawbreaking president here and they helped to reelect him," he said.

He added, however, that it was fortuitous the story appeared before a congressional vote on extending the Patriot Act, adding the Times should be commended for that. The act was temporarily extended until next month while debate on it continues.

Ellsberg shared the stage at the gathering of some 250 First Amendment lawyers with other players in the Pentagon Papers drama, including former New York Times executive editor Max Frankel and former Times attorney James C. Goodale. They gave vivid recollections of key decisions that shaped the historical case.

Frankel said Goodale immediately feared the government would seek an injunction claiming national security dangers, which it did.

Asked about his newspaper's concerns about exposing a secret government report, Frankel, then the Times Washington bureau chief, said he was more concerned about the consequences of not publishing.

"The frame of mind of people at my level was, 'It's a hot story and how do we get it out and damn the consequences,'" he said. "The first instinct and the last instinct is to get it out.

"What you judge are what are the consequences of not publishing," he continued. "What happens when your readers find out you had it and you didn't publish it?"

Goodale said he did some quick legal research, determined there was no law against leaking and that Ellsberg's actions did not fall under espionage statutes. While he at first urged caution, he said that his attitude changed after reading the Pentagon Papers.

"I got so darned angry at the documents and the history that I decided they had to be published," he said.

He added that there was so little legal precedent on the issue that, "I felt rather certain that the government didn't know what it was doing."

Ellsberg's case was dismissed because of government misconduct after it was disclosed that a group working for the White House had broken into his psychiatrist's office in an attempt to gain information it could use to embarrass him.

Shortly after Friday's panel discussion, Ellsberg learned that the judge who dismissed the charges, William Matthew Byrne Jr., had died Thursday at age 75.

"His dismissal of all charges against Tony Russo and myself with the eloquent denunciation of government misconduct, in which he said it offends a sense of justice, gave my wife and me one of the best days of our lives," Ellsberg told The Associated Press. *AP*

Saudi gov't, pilgrims blame each other for deadly crush

MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA—SAUDI ARABIA blamed unruly pilgrims on Friday for the crush that killed 363 people during the hajj, but many Muslims said better security could have averted the worst disaster to befall the rite in 16 years.

The pilgrims were crushed on the last day of the hajj on Thursday at the disaster-prone Jamarat Bridge in Mena, a narrow valley near the holy city of Mecca, as they jostled to perform a stoning ritual in the early afternoon.

The legitimacy of Saudi Arabia's ruling house rests in the eyes of many Muslims on its ability to host some 2.5 million hajj pilgrims from all over the world every year.

The kingdom's top cleric, Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Sheikh said, accused pilgrims of being disorderly and senior officials said many had defied the rules by carrying their baggage with them and ignoring advice to stagger the rituals through the day.

"It pains us that so many people died, but we must point out that the security forces averted many more disasters from happening and saved many lives," the state news agency SPA quoted Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul-Aziz as saying.

Health ministry spokesperson Khaled al-Mirghalani put the final death toll at 363, revising an earlier figure of 362. He said 45 remained in hospital but with only slight injuries.

An interior ministry spokesperson said the bodies identified so far included 44 Indians, 37 Pakistanis and 28 Saudis and the authorities were still trying to determine the nationalities of about half of the dead.

The initial figures included victims from 23 other countries and both Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates said their citizens were among the dead and wounded.

In conditions of severe overcrowding, pilgrims carrying belongings broke through a security cordon, ministry spokesperson Mansour al-Turki said.

There were groups of security men in the crowd, "but often the mass and force is too much and they effectively disappear," he said.

"We had more than 600,000 pilgrims trying to leave Mena at the same time. Special forces immediateley responded to the incident," he said, adding around 18 security men were injured.

Turki said many of the dead were carrying no documents and Pakistan's Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Ejaz ul Haq said many bodies had been disfigured, making the task of identifying them even more difficult.

Some survivors said they had trampled upon people before falling on top of the human mass themselves.

Many pilgrims insist on following Prophet Mohammad's example of stoning after noon prayers instead of staggering the ritual throughout the day as some clerics recommend. Saudi clerics who follow the strict Wahhabi branch of Sunni Islam have in the past advised stoning after noon.

However, some pilgrims said the authorities had failed to impose their own rules on the ritual, which has seen similar deadly stampedes in the past. *Reuters*

9/11 workers die of health problems

NEW YORK—JAMES ZADROGA SPENT 16 hours a day toiling in the World Trade Center ruins for a month, breathing in debris-choked air. Timothy Keller said he coughed up bits of gravel from his lungs after the towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001. Felix Hernandez spent days at the site helping to search for victims.

All three men died in the last seven months of what their families and colleagues say are persistent respiratory illnesses directly caused by their work at ground zero.

While thousands of people who either worked at or lived near the site have reported ailments like the "trade center cough" since the terrorist attacks, some say that only now are the consequences of working at the site becoming heartbreakingly clear.

Some officials say it's too early to draw that conclusion. Doctors running different health screening programs say it will take decades to get a clear picture of the long-term health effects of working at ground zero.

The city department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which is tracking the health of 71,000 people exposed to Sept. 11 dust and debris, said this week that it is too soon to say whether any deaths or illnesses among its enrolled members are linked to trade center exposure.

But Robin Herbert, who directs a medical-monitoring program at Mount Sinai Medical Center for more than 14,000 ground zero workers, said "certainly it is not inconceivable" that a person could die of respiratory disease related to Sept. 11. *AP*

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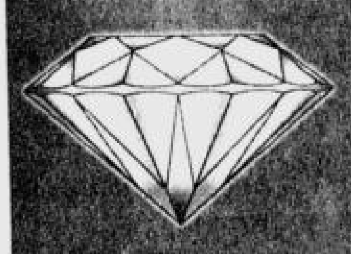

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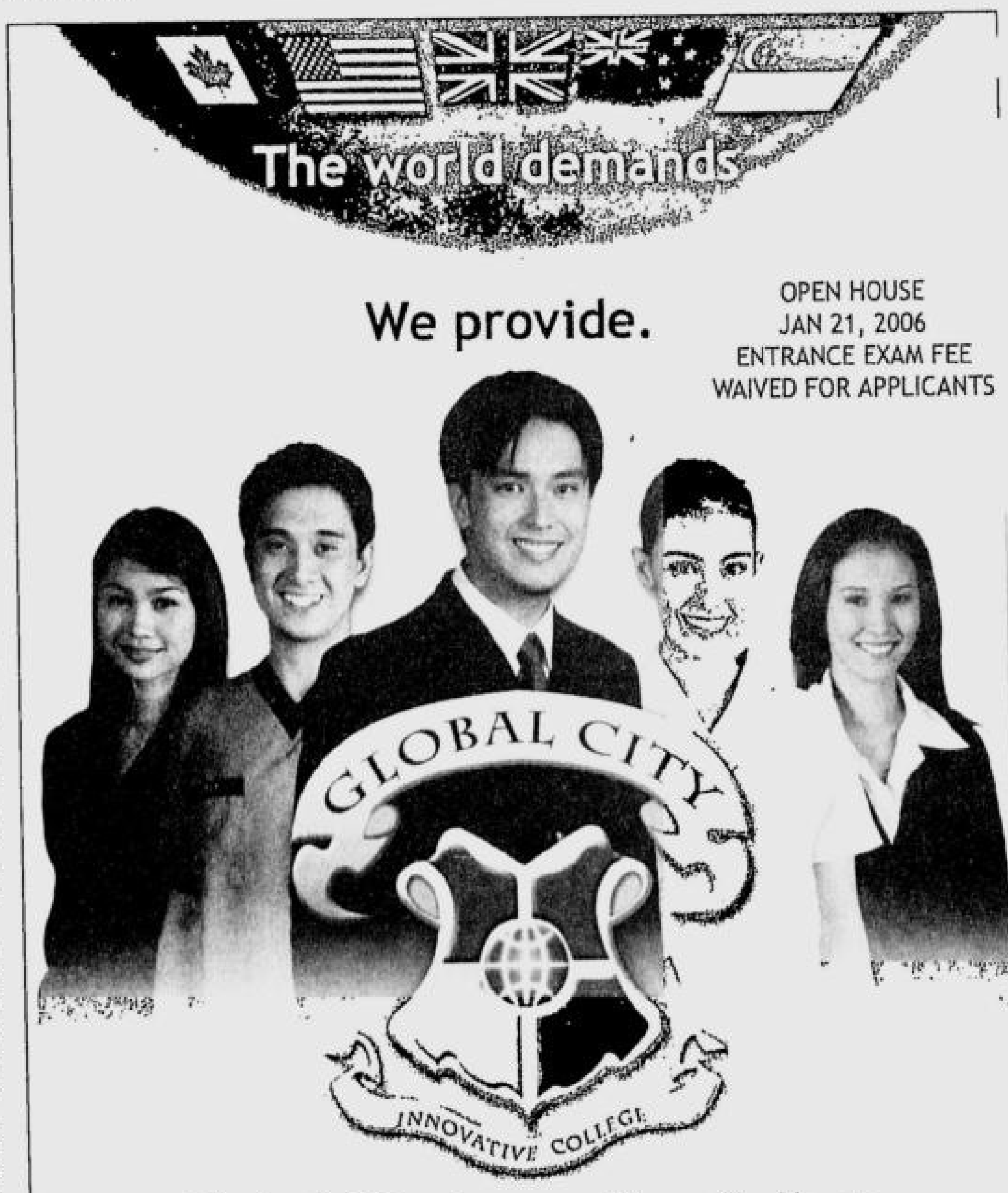

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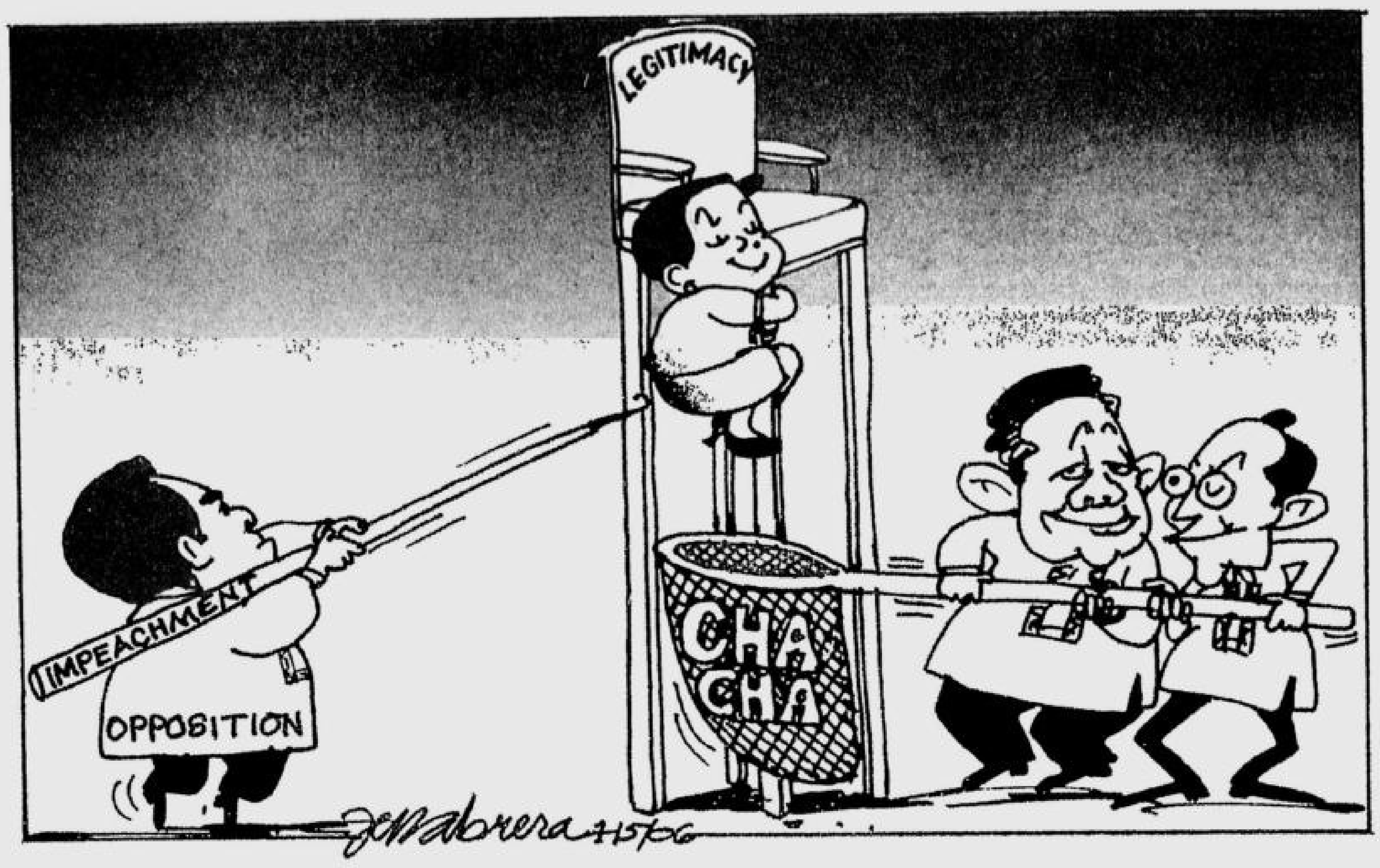

Cloudy

EDITORIAL

THE INTRAMURALS IN THE RULING LAKAS PARTY assume that the Constitution will be amended this year. The so-called war of the photo-ops aside, the various conflicting positions held by Lakas party leaders assume either (a) a complacent Senate or (b) a compliant Supreme Court. Well, the party assumes wrongly.

Ex-president Fidel Ramos' West Point formula—the long gray line ends, at least for President Macapagal-Arroyo, in June 2007—assumes that a new Constitution will be in place by then. Speaker Jose de Venecia's French plan—French, as in Tour de France, with the President wearing the winner's jersey for a few more laps after June 2007—assumes the very same thing.

But (here's a quick refresher, for the Lakas party faithful), the House of Representatives alone cannot amend the Constitution. At the start of the so-called great debate on Charter change, many administration congressmen were extolling the joys of ambiguity: The pertinent provision in the Constitution (Article XVII, Section 1) reads: "Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by: (1) The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members; or (2) A constitutional convention."

The absence of any qualifier on that "three-fourths" vote quickened the pulse of pro-amendment congressmen; they thought that this meant the two chambers of Congress voting jointly. If that were the case, the island of anti-amendment senators would be swamped by a sea of representatives voting pro. But surely that was a mistaken interpretation: Amending the Constitution is as serious as, say, declaring a state of war, and yet in Article VI, Section 23 the qualification of the two chambers "voting separately" is explicit.

Today, we can still find a congressman or two who would swear by that mistaken reading, but the battleground has already shifted, from the preferred mode of converting the legislature into a Constituent Assembly, to the people's initiative.

The people's initiative is an innovation in direct democracy introduced in 1987 (Article XVII, Section 2): "Amendments to this Constitution may likewise be directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition of at least twelve per centum of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters therein."

The other day, another newspaper quoted Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson for the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, holding forth on Charter change at some length. "Ulap is supporting both constitutional assembly and constitutional convention. But the problem is, the assembly will not pass in the Senate. That's why we are also pushing for the people's initiative."

Politically, this is a viable enterprise: given last year's statistics, 12 percent of all registered voters means only some 5.2 million signatures. (Of course, an especially recalcitrant legislative district can block the entire initiative, by limiting the yes votes to less than 3 percent.)

But Ulap's game plan already assumes that the initiative will be challenged before the Supreme Court, again. And Evardone's reading is not even remotely legal, but rankly political. "Those judges who voted against people's initiative are all retired now. Of the five who voted for it, two are still active. We think it is about time that the issue is revisited. Once we gather the needed 12 percent of signatures nationwide in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, I think the judges could not just set aside this overwhelming decision of the people."

In sum: "I think the final arbiter will be the Supreme Court."

What he means is that he and other pro-amendment local executives think that the final arbiter will be a high court cowed by political considerations. But the reason the Supreme Court struck down previous attempts at a people's initiative was simple: Congress, contrary to an express constitutional requirement, had failed to pass an enabling law. To date, there is still no enabling law.

Evardone thinks that is a mere detail, something that is of no moment to the one branch of government required to be non-political. We think he assumes wrongly.

Who will run it?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A SOCIETY OF LAWYERS RECENTLY INVITED me to speak on the presidential system against another speaker who would defend the parliamentary system. I declined, pleading another appointment but I had a better reason.

My reason was that I have not at this point made a choice between the two systems, assuming such choice is necessary. In 1994, while I was still a member of the Supreme Court, I delivered before the Manila Overseas Press Club a speech entitled "Presidential or Parliamentary?" It was based on an extensive research on the popularity of the two forms of government which showed that the two were more or less evenly distributed.

Seated beside me at the head table was then Vice President Joseph Estrada, who was practically the guest of honor. That was the first time we met, and I remember him telling me by way of a cordial introduction that his father and mine were close friends. Dr. Emilio Ejercito was the chief medical officer of Manila and Vicente G. Cruz was a member of its Municipal Board when it was still prestigious. The two of them usually had lunch together at the City Hall canteen.

I sensed that the audience had not yet decided at that time on the choice between the presidential and the parliamentary systems as the topic had not yet aroused much public attention, unlike now. At the open forum that followed my address, many of the questions raised dwelt on the merits of the two systems and were mostly addressed to Estrada.

The Vice President was then already preparing to run for the top office and was naturally in favor of the presidential system. A substantial number in the audience—and in the country at large, I suppose—were for maintaining the presidential system and were looking forward to Estrada heading it. Their decision was based not so much on the advantages of the present system but on the expectation that Estrada would be the next President of the Philippines.

The debate between the two forms of government has ceased to be merely academic as during the time I made that speech. Now it has become political and mostly motivated by politicians with personal schemes and ambitions. Estrada at that time did not show much interest in the debate because he was already being regarded as a shoo-in at the 1998 presidential election. But now the advocates of the parliamentary system are seriously working for its adoption as the best way for their political survival.

There is talk even now that President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel V. Ramos, and Speaker Jose de Venecia are hoping to be the top bananas in the parliamentary government they are advocating. GMA, it is conjectured, intends to remain as President, to retain power and recoup her lost prestige. Ramos and De Venecia are both reportedly aiming to be prime minister, the former to exercise the dominance he used to enjoy that the latter could not win as a presidential aspirant.

De Venecia apparently feels that he can enter Malacañang through the back door with the support of his Rainbow Coalition. The electorate in general will not have the power to directly choose the high officials of the government; it is only the members of the parliament who can do this, and they are more easily persuaded by fair means or foul. This convenience was demonstrated when the House of Representatives easily quashed the attempts to impeach Luz Tancangco of the Commission on Elections and even President Arroyo despite the serious charges against them.

The proponents of the parliamentary system argue that such anomalies cannot happen because the prime minister can be easily ousted by the legislators without the present cumbersome process of impeachment. Under the presidential system, an impeachable official can continue serving up to the end of his term with the connivance of Congress even against the will of the electorate. The flaw in this comparison is the unlikely premise that the future Parliament will, unlike the present Congress, be honest.

The argument that the parliamentary system will solve all the problems of the presidential system is a foolish myth. Whatever system we adopt, it will remain rotten as long as it is run by the same rotten political leadership we have at present. The Pollyanna hope that the change of the present system will cleanse it of all its sordidness conceals the selfish purposes of those who would inflict upon the nation another huge deception.

The solution to our present difficulties is not a change of government but a change of leadership. If the proposed parliamentary system will be controlled by the same politicians running the present presidential system, we will be riding on a different ship of state but still bound for the same perdition. Our imperative need is not a change of the Constitution, such as it is, but the education of the people so they can choose a new group of principled and competent leaders to run the government whatever be its form.

Presidential or parliamentary? The real question is: Who will run it?

Learn from the child. . .

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A LITTLE CHILD from the province who came to Manila for the first time. He was amazed with all the new things he saw in the city. Upon seeing the flyovers, he whispered to his father: "*Tatay, bakit po sa atin maraming ilog na walang tulay, pero dito po maraming tulay, wala namang ilog* (Why is it that in our place there are many rivers with no bridges, while here, there are many bridges even if there are no rivers)?"

* * *

Today is the Feast of the Sto. Niño. In today's Gospel (Mk. 10, 13-16) Jesus underlines the value and importance of children. "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is precisely the innocence, the honesty, the helplessness and even the vulnerability of children that make them open and receptive to the Kingdom of God. We adults can learn a lot from the children; especially in the way we tend to adulterate life itself with our grown-up pride, lies and self-importance.

* * *

Children not only remind us of the way we were, but also what we should be. It is these "little ones," devoid of wealth, power and status who point to us the way to the Kingdom of God. If you feel lost, pressured, or harassed, look at a child, hold a child, embrace a child, and let a child lead you out of your self-made darkness into the light.

* * *

I realized how "adult" I have become when one summer, driving with my little nephews and nieces to Pangasinan, we trailed a tricycle with a pig on its side-car. As far as I was concerned, I saw a pig that was about to be slaughtered, and, that was that. However, my 6-year-old niece, upon seeing this remarked: "Look how good that man is, bringing his pig around for a ride!" Her remark really hit me: I saw the pig, and I saw a dead meat; she saw the pig and she saw a live tourist! May we never lose the child that is in each and every one of us.

* * *

Recently, I facilitated a retreat for nuns in an isolated island. The first thing I asked them was just to relax, and to forget their functions, their titles and great responsibilities, and just be like children once again. It is amazing how walls collapse and bridges are built when we become like children once again. It turned out to be such an enjoyable and liberating experience. Why? Because we gave importance and did not belittle the child in us, and precisely because we did that, we were able to relate with each other as persons, minus the functions, minus the ambitions and other so-called adult preoccupations.

* * *

Jesus' words, "Let the children come to me," should also serve as a warning to "bigshots" who think they can steer and manipulate the course of a whole nation. Just because the majority of our people are poor doesn't mean they are dumb. Just because people are not speaking (or are not given the chance to be heard) doesn't mean they are stupid. Liars and manipulators, beware. You cannot fool the people all the time.

You can not go on telling lies. You will go down somewhere, sometime. Do not belittle the little ones—the poor, the suffering, and the lowly in our country. They have Jesus on their side. Truth will prevail. Goodness will triumph. It's only a matter of time.

* * *

I feel disgusted when adults and the so-called leaders talk among themselves and come up with win-win solutions for themselves. When will the people really win in this country?

* * *

To those who continue to use and abuse the little ones and the marginalized in our country out of selfishness, and to those who prevent the poor from enjoying true and lasting peace and progress, be reminded of Jesus' words: "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it unto me." Please forget personal ambitions and agenda, and use your privilege and status to really help and serve our people. Please make a difference. And please do it now.

* * *

On this Feast of the Sto. Niño, we adults must ask the children and the little ones in our midst for forgiveness: Forgive us for the times we were so busy with our adult businesses and we forgot you; forgive us when we were so focused on our plans, and we forgot to ask you; forgive us when we were so caught up with our well-thought agenda, and we did not consult you; forgive us when we thought we were so darn right, and we belittled you; forgive us when we go on with our sins and wrongdoings, thinking that you are too young or too little to know; finally, forgive us for thinking that we still have many years to go, and forget to really prepare you, because we thought we were indispensable, when in fact, the future is now, and the future is you.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, forgive me and my grown-up pride, for having forgotten to learn from a child. Amen.

A highly politicized Armed Forces

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

DURING THE MARTIAL LAW YEARS, PRESIDENT Ferdinand E. Marcos sought to keep the loyalty and support of his generals by, among other things, dangling the possibility of extensions covering their tour of active duty. At that time, officers were supposed to be compulsorily retired after completing 30 years of service. But in the case of Gen. Romeo Espino, Gen. Fabian Ver, Gen. Fidel Ramos and a host of other generals in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which then included the Philippine Constabulary, their retirements were held in abeyance. They were granted "extensions" usually for six months at a time. After a while, it became the goal of generals approaching retirement to lobby with the powers-that-be for the "extension" of their services. The pay was not bad and the perks made things even better. Because of the slow attrition at the top, movement from below became snail-paced. One of the issues raised by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) was precisely the highly politicized handing out of extensions to retiring generals in exchange presumably for their continuing support and loyalty.

Today, with the constitutional prohibition against "extensions," all officers, except for the AFP chief of staff, retire from the service upon reaching age 56. Unfortunately, the policy has given rise to a different type of problem. Unlike the extensions of the Marcos era, we now have the "revolving door" policy which has seen the appointment of six AFP chiefs of staff in four years of the Arroyo administration. In fact, next July, Gen. Generoso Senga, the current chief of staff, will retire after less than a year in office. A leading candidate to replace him is the present Army commander, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., one of the four generals implicated in the "Hello Garci" tapes. The results of the investigation of this case is not yet out, although I was informed that the committee tasked to look into the charges is preparing to release its findings this month. The former AFP Inspector General Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, who heads the committee, is now the flag officer in command (FOIC) of the Philippine Navy. Could there be any doubt as to the committee's conclusions?

Last September, in one of the most embarrassing snafus in AFP command arrangements, Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, the 4th Infantry Division commander, was supposed to take over as Southern Command chief. Southcom is the largest and most important of the AFP's unified commands, with headquarters in Zamboanga City. At the last minute, in the face of intense political lobbying by a prominent church leader on behalf of another officer, Bagasin's takeover was scrapped and Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the AFP deputy chief of staff, was designated as the Southcom officer in charge.

Last week, after only four months on the job, General Adan retired from the service while Gen. Bagasin is scheduled to be transferred to the Central Command (Centcom) in the Visayas. Guess who took over as Southcom chief? Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, the officer rumored as being the interested party in the Bagasin turnover snafu. An archbishop was among the prominent guests at Habacon's assumption of command. It appears that political debts from the 2004 elections are still being paid at this late date.

Perhaps our politicians and even some of our church leaders don't realize it, but when they interfere with affairs of the armed forces, they endanger the national security and put at risk the lives of our soldiers and our people. The Southcom is our main unit tasked with fighting Muslim secessionists, communist insurgents, Abu Sayyaf elements and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists in Mindanao. A "revolving door" policy regarding its commander will not do our nation any good. Only individuals benefit from these frequent changes while the organization suffers from the lack of clear, long-term guidance and control from a leadership that may be distracted by early retirement plans.

The recent turnover of command at the Philippine Navy is another case in point. After earlier official announcements by no less than the executive secretary, the ceremonies had to be called off on the day itself. While the Palace explanation mentioned that the President had not come to any decision—this was hard to believe since even the invitations had been printed and sent out—it was the hand of politics that caused the postponement of the original plans. Fortunately for Vice Admiral Mayuga, he was allowed to assume the post of FOIC, Philippine Navy. Some people see his assumption as the price for clearing the officers in the "Hello Garci" scandal. A bit unkind, but that's what happens when the politicians get into the picture.

Perhaps, the most politicized unit in the armed forces also happens to be the most sensitive. The Intelligence Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) is believed to be the source of the "Hello Garci" tapes even if General Senga has denied that the AFP has any wiretapping capability. What could be more political than activities related with these tapes! Which brings me to a very sad observation. Last year alone, the AFP lost some 450 officers and men killed in action (KIA). Some sources put the figures at a high of 700; others, a low of 200. This is almost double the casualties in previous years. In comparison, the United States lost some 2,000 men in the Iraq war from 2001 to 2005.

That is the real tragedy and that is the price we will continue to pay for too much politics in the affairs of our armed forces.

Advice to newlyweds

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ATTENDING A NUMBER OF WEDDINGS RECENTLY, as a *ninang* or as a guest, set me to wondering what sort of advice the newlyweds—especially the brides—got or were getting before they walked down the aisle and set off on the road to marriage.

From my own experience, I would bet that the information conveyed was not only inadequate, if not entirely useless, but also misleading or, even if it covered the essentials, didn't really answer the truly, er, burning questions.

The only time my mother and I ever discussed sex came after my then-boyfriend (and now my husband) had pulled off his "*pamanhikan*," and we became officially engaged. One morning, Mama entered my room and told me a story about a girl in her hometown who, after she had gotten engaged, went ahead and had carnal relations with her fiancé. "But before they could get married, he suddenly died and she found herself not only unmarried, but also pregnant!" I didn't know how exactly to react: Was she telling me the story because she truly believed I hadn't yet become physical with my boyfriend? Or did she know me well enough and felt the need to put the fear of God and scandal in me?

Another mother I know asked her daughter a few days before the wedding if she knew enough about sex. "Mom!" her daughter exclaimed. "I breed dogs, and I've watched Popsie and Mopsie (her pet Chow-chows) mate!" "Well, that's good," said the mother, and then, remembering something, shot back: "But don't copy them, OK?"

* * *

IF cautionary tales and admonitions about doggie-style sex were enough to guide a young woman (and man) through the unknown territory of marital relations, then there wouldn't be any need for the rest of this column.

But too many couples start off their married lives armed only with the most rudimentary information, and though they do manage to cobble together a successful relationship after some time, they do so only by learning from their mistakes and somehow overcoming their miscues and misconceptions.

Here then is a wedding gift to all lovers out there contemplating marriage, or already up to their chins in tulle and lace, flower arrangements and place cards. Here are answers to questions I know I had in mind 27 years ago but dared not ask any adult who could report me to my mother. Read on but don't rat on me to your parents, OK?

First things first, about sex—It's true, what the advice columns say: Sex is important in marriage, but it is not what marriage is all about. But I can tell you that living with another person is difficult enough as it is, and it is only by being in a thrall of physical attraction to each other that you can manage to overlook the thousand annoyances that will inevitably crop up in the early years. The fascination will fade with time, but by then you should have found other things to value in the relationship, though sex—and romance—will always be important ingredients in the glue that will hold you two together.

I happen to think that sexual compatibility is essential in a marriage. And even if you're the sort who believes that "virginity is the biggest gift you can give your spouse on your wedding night," it's still important to be sure that you are at least physically attracted to and comfortable with him or her.

But even if desire and eagerness were in the mix, that doesn't guarantee earthshaking sex on the first night. Lower your expectations. You will be exhausted and fraught with tension, if not unfamiliar with each other's body contours. Take your time, rest a bit. The good thing about being married is that you know you have the rest of your lives—including the early morning hours—to explore and pleasure each other.

A word to grooms: Be gentle and patient and remember that the best rewards come to those willing to do the prep work. And to brides: You have already committed your life to this man, so remember that nothing is too shameful or embarrassing to try with him—at least once.

* * *

AND this brings me to—contraception. Between booking the church and reception venue and going for your gown fittings, squeeze in some time to visit an obstetrician-gynecologist. Have the plumbing checked out, as it were, ask the essential questions, and go for a family planning consultation.

If you put off thinking about contraception until after the honeymoon, it may be too late. Even if you plan on becoming pregnant the day after, you may want to be assured that you won't be facing any problems down the line. My own advice would be to wait awhile. The stresses of the first trimester, on top of all the hassles of the wedding preparations, don't augur well for the future.

Your choice of family planning method should be the result of your own preference and need, your doctor's advice, and your fiancé's views (he could also undertake to make contraception his responsibility).

If you decide to rely on "natural" family planning, be aware that you should go for counseling at least three months before the wedding, since experts say that's the amount of time needed before a woman can be fully familiar with her cycle. But if it's important to you that you don't get pregnant at the outset, my own advice would be to rely on a back-up method (a condom or other device, or a contraceptive patch) for the honeymoon, since all the tension and exhaustion can play havoc with your cycle.

As for the groom-to-be, I think it's important that he, too, go for some medical advice, especially if he has apprehensions. Remember that most sexually transmitted infections don't have actual visible symptoms. If you can't give your bride the gift of your virginity, at least make sure you don't give her an STI as a wedding present. That really sucks.

Protecting the Constitution from politicians

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AMENDING A CONSTITUTION IS SERIOUS BUSINESS; writing a new one is even more so. A mature nation does it for the right reasons—to take account of new realities in the world or in the country itself, to solve persistent problems that cannot be cured by ordinary legislation, etc. It is irresponsible to undertake constitutional reform just to fix the problems of an incumbent politician. It is like attempting to save a marriage, troubled by a chronically dishonest spouse, by drawing up a post-nuptial agreement, when dissolving the relationship is the more logical action to take.

Framers of constitutions everywhere are often cautioned against writing the values of their generation into a document that should serve future generations as well. If this seems like a sensible advice, then it should warn us against the tricks of politicians who want to write their political careers into the Constitution.

That's the main reason I have refused to participate in the so-called "great debate" on Charter change. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the wrong person to start it. Her mandate is under question because of the widespread belief that she conspired to rig the outcome of the 2004 presidential election. Her behavior as President of the country in the last five years has been marked by a total lack of respect for the most basic principles of ethical leadership. She is desperately fighting for survival. A constitution written under such auspices can only be a polluted document.

A constitution belongs to the people, not to their politicians. It must mirror their changing conception of themselves and of the role they seek to play in the world. It must reflect the general state of their politics and define the kind of power structure they believe is appropriate to their needs. Moreover, a constitution must set down the relationship between the state and the citizens in meaningful terms. Constitutions typically formulate the rights and freedoms of citizens as limitations of governmental power. But modern constitutions are moving in the direction of more positive rights—like the right to food, the right to housing, the right to education, the right to health, the right to a fair trial, and the right to employment, just to name a few.

These are issues much bigger than the fortunes of a few politicians. In the 1971 Constitutional Convention, one of the dominant currents that shaped the drafting of the new constitution was a resurgent nationalism. The charter that had served the Commonwealth Government was found to be too resonant of colonial influence, and grossly inadequate to the challenges faced by a sovereign nation. Many delegates held decolonization to be the proper task of the convention. But Marcos hijacked the work of the 1971 Constitutional Convention by declaring martial law, and shaped the final draft to suit his personal agenda.

That is the reason why hardly anyone objected when in 1986 the first act of the Edsa government was to throw away the 1973 Marcos Constitution. A new constitution was drafted by 48 individuals handpicked by President Cory Aquino, and this was overwhelmingly ratified by the people.

A quick glance at the 1987 Constitution would reveal the principal concerns that guided its writing. The restrictions on executive power, especially on the power to declare martial law, are everywhere like a tonic seeking to cure a lingering authoritarian hangover. The new Charter pays homage to the animating force of people power. And the nationalist yearnings that could not be enacted in 1971 echo in many provisions of the constitution. The most significant of these are the provisions on the US bases and the restrictions on foreign participation in the national economy. We got rid of the bases in 1991, but the debate on the need to liberalize foreign entry into various sectors of the economy continues.

Today, the discussion is focused on the shift to the parliamentary system. The latter's proponents argue that a parliamentary government is the best way to deal with the recurrent crisis of the presidency, which, they say, we have been forced to manage through the unwieldy mechanism of people power. This is an interesting defense of the parliamentary system. Would a parliamentary system really make people power unnecessary?

There are many advantages to a parliamentary system—a government that fuses executive and legislative powers. But I suspect that, apart from the diversionary function that Charter change is meant to play in the present political juncture, the overriding reason behind the present plan to shift to parliamentarism is to strip the people of their right to directly elect their highest leader, thus paving the way for those who would never win in a popular vote.

Since 1998, when Joseph Estrada won decisively as president, Philippine politics has never been the same. The country's traditional political class felt that their supremacy was coming to an end. Unless they did something, they would henceforth have to deal with movie icons and media celebrities who stand outside the walls of the elitist system they control. The fear of a president who will take his cues from the needs of his mass constituency rather than from the oligarchy that funded his campaign is what unites Fidel Ramos, Jose de Venecia and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. They are the gatekeepers of a politics devoted to the perpetuation of oligarchical rule. This is the real crux of the issue, and the "no-election" scenario is only one small proof of the despair of our politicians.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

A Filipino portrait

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

LAST JAN. 1, ANC AIRED THE JESUIT EXPERIMENTAL TALK show, which was hosted by Bishop Luis Tagle of the diocese of Cavite. The topic of that episode was "Outlook 2006." The guests were sociologist and INQUIRER columnist Randy David and his younger brother, Bible scholar Fr. Pablo David. The guests started off with the highlights of the year 2005, but rather than focusing on the negative things that happened, their discussion delved into the Filipino psyche or—if you want—the Filipino spirit.

What was the portrait of the Filipino that emerged from the newsmaker events of 2005? What inner resources can the Filipino harness and draw strength from so that this year will be different?

Inevitably, the leadership problem cropped up. But as Randy opined, the credibility problem has plagued not only the government; it has contaminated other institutions, including the Church. Because of this, he said, there is what experts in his field term as the "erasure of certitudes." The common Filipino does not know whom to trust anymore as most institutions are failing his expectations. In the case of the ongoing political crisis surrounding the President, the Filipino has become very suspicious and cynical over who is telling the truth. It doesn't help that Malacañang as well as the opposition continue to play the dirty war of propaganda and counter-propaganda. Pity the common Filipino then; he is left hungering for the truth but not knowing whence it shall come.

For his part, Father Pablo suggested that this dilemma of the common *tao*, perhaps, largely explains the immense popularity last year of the Fantasy genre and the phenomenal Pinoy Big Brother in national television. The first, he said, shows the subliminal desire of the Filipino to have heroes to look up to at this point in time, whose sense of righteousness and self-sacrifice are what are sorely wanting in the current crop of leaders. Remember that 2005 was the year the likes of Raul Roco, Haydee Yorac and Jaime Cardinal Sin passed away. It was also the year that the Cory magic failed to spur another people power revolution.

Likewise, the popularity of the reality TV show "Pinoy Big Brother" demonstrates, according to the brothers David, the desire of Filipinos to have a big brother or a leader who is on top of things; who, as in the program, commands obedience and respect. Again, the show, they said, points to the silent cry of the Filipinos for leaders who are almost God-like in their wisdom and in their power to make things happen.

The year 2005 then showed what Filipinos will continue to desire and wish for: leaders of moral integrity and heroic courage.

In the second half of the show, the discussion delved into the Filipino's internal resources that could help him survive this year and the future. Randy pointed out the Filipino's deep sense of religiosity, which enables him to be brave in the face of whatever odds. He told the story of two overseas Filipino workers he met in a plane on his way to Germany. These were "*probinsiyanas*" according to him. They had not even been to Manila but here they were on their way to a foreign country. He was impressed by their courage, he said. But later he discovered what, perhaps, was the source of that against-all-odds courage. As the plane continued its flight, the two OFWs reached for their bags, drew out their small prayer books and silently recited their novenas. To him, he said, it is this deep sense of faith that continues to enable Filipinos to look to the future with courage and hope.

Father Pablo, for his part, added that the OFW phenomenon also points to another strength of the Filipinos: their valuing of the family. Mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers are ready and willing to traverse untold distances, and face the difficult life abroad just so their families here can have a better life. Father Pablo, Randy and Bishop Tagle, however, agreed that the challenge is how to broaden this Filipino sense of family so that it would include the whole nation. Father Pablo cited Benedict Anderson who said that the Filipino, while remaining until now clear about loyalty to family, still struggles in imagining a Filipino nation. Terminologies and labels, according to Bishop Tagle, are partly to blame. He cited, for example, the ubiquitous slogans that barangays use: "*Tapat ko, linis ko.*" Although well-intentioned, it somehow perpetuates a certain sense of individualism, a sense that one is only responsible for oneself. In the middle ages, Bishop Tagle said, St. Francis of Assisi reintroduced a word that was lost in the feudal society of his time—"*frater*" or brother—and this he claimed influenced the world into thinking that everyone is a brother or sister, that everyone, rich or poor, is part of one big family. Internalizing this kind of thinking, he said, remains the greatest challenge to Filipinos this year and beyond. With the Filipino's resilient faith, his deep valuing for family, and a strong sense of solidarity with his countrymen, the future still remains hopeful.

THEY SAID

Right course

"How can you go wrong with ship-building in a country with 7,000 islands?"

—Mapua Institute of Technology president Dr. Reynaldo Vea on his decision to take up mechanical engineering so he could go into ship-building

Incredible source

"This is the best example of double-hearsay—incompetent, inadmissible and incredible."

—Former Sen. Tito Sotto's reaction to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's remarks that he has "very unflattering" details about the meeting of Sotto, former President Fidel Ramos and Senate President Franklin Drilon

'Hara-kiri'

"Had Japanese officials acted like Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and VFA (Visiting Forces Agreement) Commission chief Zosimo Paredes, the Japanese people would have demanded their heads or expected them to perform *hara-kiri*."

—House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo asking Philippine officials to emulate Japan's swift and decisive action in prosecuting an erring American soldier

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Abled 'disabled'

THE ARTICLES FEATURED HERE ARE AMONG THE 10 LIFE STORIES OF PERSONS with disability (PWDs) contained in "TheseAbled, " a newly published book about how a group of PWDs struggled to become productive members of society.

Some 8 to 10 percent of the country's population is disabled. They have orthopedic impairment because of polio or an accident. Others are blind or have cerebral palsy. Others have hearing or speech difficulties.

Many of the PWDs have had a brush not only with discrimination but also with deprivation or isolation.

As a result, they have limited employment opportunities. But disability does not mean inability. "Every so-called 'disabled' person has talent, and skill, and everyone has the right to decent work," says Michael Davies of the Christian Blind Mission.

With skills in making chairs, PWDs are earning their keep. The first order came from a school in Baguio City in 1993. Today, their cooperatives are making chairs and tables for schools across the country. One of their biggest clients is the education department.

The cooperatives have formed the National Federation of Cooperatives of Persons with Disability.

Erlinda Timbreza-Valerio, also known as Daisy Valerio, author of the book, expresses the hope that "TheseAbled" will contribute to a better understanding of the sector. The "book presents PWDs whose lives speak of their boundless potentials an capabilities like any other human being."

Never too late to join cause of PWDs

MY FAMILY IS FROM COTAbato City where I was born on Feb. 8, 1967.

My right leg is shorter than my left because I got sick with polio when I was young. Our family gave me all the support I needed since childhood. They never treated me as disabled and I can do almost everything that others can. The only thing I cannot do is run. I hardly felt discrimination since childhood. There were some children who called me *pilay* (lame) because I had a limp but that was the exception.

Musicians

I come from a family of musicians and I started playing the trumpet when I was in Grade V. Later, I played the piano and the saxophone.

I went to the University of Santo Tomas in Manila during my college years. There, I finished Hotel and Restaurant Management. I took the course because I wanted to help my father manage our hotels in Cotabato City. I started managing our hotels after my college graduation in 1987 and married in 1991 at the age of 24. My wife and I put our own restaurant and bakeshop. We also have a rent-a-car and cellular phone business. We have four children—three boys and one girl.

Empire State

I was a busy businessman. Thus, I hardly had time to get in touch with my fellow persons with disability (PWDs). My awareness of the situation of PWDs developed in quite a strange way. This started when I accompanied my 14-year-old son to the United States in 2003. He was a member of the Philippine Junior Golf Tournament. In the US, I experienced the fact that disabled persons were given priority. I was always given the "Very Important Person" treatment wherever we went. This surprised me.

One day, we were going up the Empire State Building in New York. There was a long line of people going up and we lined up with them. We were standing for more than an hour. I became very tired and had just started sitting down when a security guard suddenly approached me. He asked whether I was disabled. When I answered "yes," he told my son, a relative and me to follow him without even asking for my ID. He brought us to the ticketing area where we were prioritized. In a few minutes, we were already up. We were given the same VIP treatment in all places we visited. I also found out that disabled persons were given monthly budget by the US government.

Mall

When I came home, my experience was different. I was parking in a place designated for disabled persons in a mall in Manila when a security guard came and asked for my ID. Since I could not produce one, he asked me to transfer to the regular parking area. Although that experience was very different from my experience abroad, I did not argue with the security guard. I simply transferred to the place he designated. When I went home to Cotabato, I told my mother that my disability was an advantage in America but not in the Philippines.

Since then, I started to be more sensitive to the plight of my fellow disabled. I arranged for some blind people to alternate as masseurs in our hotels. Soon, I contacted the association of PWDs in Cotabato. However, I did not actively attend their meetings at the beginning. I met Peter Hammerle [of the Christian Blind Mission International] and Johnny Lantion when they came to Cotabato for the first time. They stayed in our hotel.

Enlightened

An accident I met three years ago brought me closer to PWDs. I slipped in our kitchen. The main bone of my let foot was broken so that my foot was put in a cast. I stayed home for six months. In the beginning I was using a wheelchair. Later, I used some crutches while I was going through therapy. One day, one of my former classmates in high school, Olan Emberga, a PWD, visited me. He invited me to visit a shelter workshop and attend the meeting of a cooperative.

I was enlightened when I saw PWDs making chairs and was especially struck when I saw one who was hammering a nail. His feet held the piece of wood and nail in place while his wrist stump held the hammer. He was very fast in doing this. I also learned that the members of the cooperative worked hard to earn so that they would not beg in the streets. Their situation touched me deeply. While earlier I avoided fellow PWDs, I started to love their company since then.

I became more and more active in the association and cooperative. Soon, I was elected chair of our cooperative in Cotabato. Together with other delegates of our cooperative I went to Manila for the general assembly and met the representatives and staff of the Federation of National Cooperatives of Persons with Disability. I was elected chair of the federation in 2004. I was surprised why they elected me, but I accepted it just the same.

Adjustment

My responsibility in the federation suddenly became very big. I visited almost all of our member-cooperatives and was glad to meet fellow PWDs in various parts of the country. My wife had to make a big adjustment because I became very busy with the cause of our cooperative and the federation. She now manages our businesses.

FREDERICK Castro

The education department's 2002 budget for school chairs amounting to P49 million came during my term. This is the big project we were waiting for. When it finally came, we could hardly believe that it had finally become a reality. We waited for this project for almost three years.

(Castro is the chair of the National Federation of Cooperatives of Persons with Disability.)

The joys and pains of family life

ROMUALDO Barrientos

MY PARENTS SAID I WAS born a healthy child on Aug. 29, 1957 and was already running when my disability started.

We lived in Old Sta. Mesa, Manila. My father was an employee of the San Miguel Brewery while my mother was a housewife. I was about three years old when I had high fever. Thinking that it was just an ordinary sickness, my parents brought me to the National Orthopedic Hospital after a week of persistent fever. They were informed that I had polio and was operated on and confined in the hospital for three months. Back home, I could hardly move and after that could not walk anymore.

Big fire

In 1962, there was a big fire in our neighborhood in Old Sta. Mesa and our house was burned. We transferred to the house of my mother's cousin in Manggahan, Pasig. It was there that I started attending kindergarten classes. My mother carried me to the Manggahan Elementary School and brought me home after classes.

I was in Grade I when my mother died in 1964. When she was gone, life became more difficult for us children, especially for me, a disabled. I wanted to continue studying but no one could bring me to school. My older brother was also studying and was already a teenager so he came home late and could not wake up early. My older sister could not carry me because I was already heavy. Aside from studying, she served as our surrogate mother. While our father was at work, she cooked our food, washed our clothes and cared for the three smaller kids who were barely 4, 3 and 1.

Boy scouts

Having started to use crutches, I continued studying but stopped after finishing Grade IV. I was always in the top 10 of our class then and would have wanted very much to continue studying but things became very difficult for me especially with a path, which was muddy and slippery when it rained. The school principal came to our house often and encouraged me to study. She told me she would assign boy scouts to fetch me and bring me home. The following school year, I finished elementary. Our principal paid for my lunch in the school canteen and bought my school needs. My classmates who persisted in carrying me became my friends. Some of them are now working abroad and they always visit me when they are home.

After elementary, I told the school principal I wouldn't study anymore. My father could not afford to send me to school and, besides, Rizal High School was quite far from our house. But once again, the principal arranged my enrollment and provided for my school needs. She also assigned students from Pasig to fetch me at home and bring me back after classes. In school, teachers were very considerate. When we had examinations, they asked somebody to bring the papers to the classroom where I was I made my assignments during lunch breaks so that I had nothing to carry when I went home. Our adviser gave me a locker in our classroom where I kept my papers and things.

I was not able to finish second year high school because I got into trouble. Some students kept on making fun of me. One day, one of them started to pinch my ears. At first, I did not mind him and requested him to stop but he didn't. I became angry and hit him with a newly sharpened pencil that went deep into his skin. We were brought to the principals' office. After hearing the story, he was suspended from classes. He got very angry and threatened to do something bad to me. It was already the fourth grading in my second year when I decided to stop going to school.

We had a neighbor who was working at the Cross Foundation for the Rehabilitation of PWDs (CFARD) in Project 4, Quezon City. One day, he invited me to go with him and I was accepted to work there. CFARD, a shelter workshop producing rattan and *buri* (coconut sticks) crafts, operated in two areas in the same vicinity. These were the Munting Pamayanan (Small Community) and the Escopa Bliss. Since traveling every day was quite difficult for me, I stayed in the workshop during weekdays and went home to Marikina during weekends. Aside from our daily salary and free board and lodging, we were given an extra five kilos of rice a week for bringing home. Before 1987 ended, I was promoted to project supervisor.

Love

I met Mercy, now my wife and a fellow PWD, in the shelter workshop in Project 4. Both of her hands were deformed since birth. I was already more than 30 years old and she was barely 23. We fell in love and started to live together in December 1987. One day, she suggested that if I was serious with our relationship, I should talk to her family to arrange our marriage. My stepmother and I went to talk to Mercy's family. It turned out that she had 11 siblings most of whom were girls. Except for one or two, her siblings did not accept me, probably because I was in a wheelchair. Their mother was already dead and their father was in Bicol.

In 1988, Mercy's siblings told her to go to Bicol and fetch their father. Thinking that they wanted to take her away, we decided to elope. Since they were always watching her, she would put on extra clothes when she came to work and kept these in our workshop. When she had enough clothes, I hid her in my cousin's house in Marikina while I continued working in Project 4. Her sisters who were angry with me kept coming to our workplace asking me about Mercy. I told them I knew nothing about her whereabouts.

After five months of hiding. Mercy got pregnant, with our first child and we decided to show ourselves to her family. Again, Mercy's sisters were angry when they saw her situation and confirmed that I was father of the child.

Her father who was already in Manila at that time and her other siblings had nothing against me though, but the others told Mercy, "Who will take care of you when you give birth, with your husband disabled?" Hurt by those remarks, I told them, "We are very much in love with each other and yes, don't worry, we will take care of ourselves." We got married in July 1988.

Today, Mercy and I have four children.

(Barrientos is a manager of Samahang Ikauunlad ng mga may Kapansanan Ating Palawakin Multipurpose Cooperative.)

When life requires a relearning

OUR PLACE IS 12 KILOMEters away from Davao City. We are nine siblings and I am the seventh, born on June 29, 1973. I have six brothers and two sisters. Aside from tilling our farm, my father fished in the nearby river and I enjoyed going with him very often. My mother was a housekeeper. We were a very happy family.

Our life changed greatly when my father suddenly died. I was 11 years old then. When he was gone, life became very difficult for our family. He was such a big loss to all of us, especially to me who was very close to him. Until now, there are times when I long for his presence because I was a Papa's girl and spoiled in a way.

We had always been a closely knit family. When our father was gone, my siblings helped my mother in sending me to school. I stayed with a married brother in Davao City. Up to the present, my siblings and I go home on Christmas holidays to visit our mother, although some are now married and are living far from home.

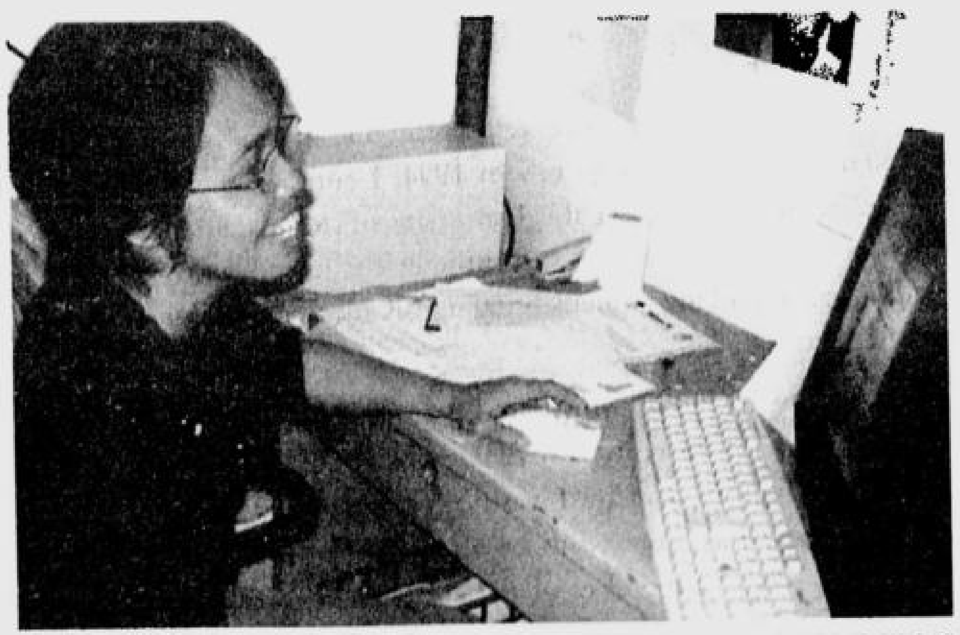
The experience, which greatly changed my life, happened on Dec. 28, 1991. I was in fourth year high school. We were on our way to Mangagoy, in Compostela Valley, to buy fruits, which we intended to sell before the New Year. The incident happened at around 7 a.m. I was sleeping and did not know how the accident happened. The hired vehicle went off the road and crashed. I must have been half asleep because I heard my brother saying, "Stop, or my sister will die." Having been seated beside the driver, I was the only one who was hurt.

Amputated

I got first aid in Moncayo after which I was brought to San Pedro Hospital in Davao City. I was confined in the emergency section and was unconscious for several days. I was still unconscious when the doctor operated on me. When I woke up, I was in great pain and did not know that my right arm had been amputated.

I knew that my family love me very much and I felt their love and support all the more during those moments. I spent New Year 1992 in the hospital together with my mother and siblings. I could hardly bear the pain and did not allow anyone to touch my injured arm because it was very painful. I was confined in the hospital for two months.

When I was out of the hospital, I felt the big change in my life. My mother did almost everything for me, including dressing up. I was traumatized and stopped going to school. For sometime, I did not want to ride any vehicle. Prior to the accident, I was right-handed, and was depressed when I remembered that I would have to spend the rest of my life without my right hand. Up the present, I am still very much afraid when I am riding a vehicle that goes fast. Later, a doctor recommended that I get an artificial arm. This was very expensive but was made possible through the help of good people.



EVELYN Sumacbay

PHOTOS FROM THESEABLED

New hope

It took me almost three years after the accident before I finally accepted that life had to go on. In 1994, I enrolled at the University of Mindanao in Davao City and took up Bachelor of Science in Accountancy. When classes started, it was difficult for me to write with my left hand. I was a working student bringing my niece to school and fetching her after classes.

Before my graduation, I did my on-the-job training at the Association of Differently Abled Persons Multipurpose Cooperative in Davao City. I was not yet a member of the cooperative then. Everyone was required to be a member of the cooperative. Later, I became a volunteer of the cooperative.

Finally, my graduation was nearing. I was very excited and could not sleep the whole night before my graduation day. My mother and my siblings with their children were excited, too. They surprised me with their presents when I received my diploma. I graduated in March 1998, finishing my course in three and one half years because I took summer classes.

After graduation, I became a staff member of the cooperative. Working with fellow PWDs was a great challenge with everyone's uniqueness but being with them greatly helped, too. I was especially touched by one woman who had two hands but could hardly make use of them because they were underdeveloped since birth.

Together with fellow PWDs, I experienced traveling to Cotabato City and to other parts of Mindanao when we delivered chairs. The work was sometimes difficult, but I loved it and was able to overcome the difficulties. Our salary scheme was low because that was all that our cooperative could afford at that time, but we loved our work because we knew that we were working for our cooperative.

In February 2004, I attended a training in Manila called "Empowering Cooperatives through Enterprise Development." Our manager was supposed to attend the training but could not, so I was requested to attend. After the training, the management of the National Federation of Cooperatives of Persons with Disability invited me to work at the national office. They wanted me to start the following month. At first, I did not like the idea because I was not used to being away from home. After considering everything though, I realized it would be good for me to work in a different environment. I accepted the offer.

(Sumacbay is the human resource development and planning officer of the NFCPWD.)

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Maria Cristina: Legends of a 'lost' fall

By Christine F. Godinez-Ortega
Iligan City

DESPITE THE MARIA CRISTINA Falls being kept out of sight by the National Power Corp., its waters trapped in turbines as an economical means to generate 467 megawatts of electric power for Mindanao, legends of this fall live on.

This is therefore an attempt to look into how the legend began although we know such quest remains as elusive as the now-you-see-now-you-don't falls itself.

The Maria Cristina is the mother of 20 waterfalls in Iligan City. It plunges up to 320 feet into a pool where boulders, one of which is said to be the petrified magical war boat of Prince Bantogen, hero of the Maranao-Maguindanao epic "Darangen," are visible because the flow is only "by appointment."

Resigned to the Napocor's sequestration as a necessary sacrifice for Mindanao's benefit, Iliganons joke about the Maria Cristina being a "waterfalse wonder," a "waterfalls by appointment" or "only on Saturdays and Sundays" because its waters are released for visitors for about three hours each day on weekends.

Released at the appointed time, usually 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., one can no longer hear the thunder of rushing water that used to generate misty sprays to as wide as 30 meters on dry land.

Twin sisters

Where before the division of parallel flows is obscured by the volume of water over the precipice, it is to the benefit of those enamored by the legend to point out that the split shows the "strong presence" of the twin sisters, Maria and Cristina, for which the falls is named.

No matter the manmade controls over the falls, the legend continues to buoy the people's spirits.

If the presence of a waterfall indicates a healthy environment, the music of flowing water is therapeutic like a robust river's, large or small, blocked or tiered, cascading, fanning out, or plunging voluminously and vertically into a pool.

Among the best known of these natural wonders are Venezuela's Angel Falls, the world's highest at 3,230 feet; the Victoria Falls, the world's largest, found on the borders of Zambia and Zimbabwe; and the Niagara Falls, the most voluminous in North America. Singapore, like other countries not blessed with natural waterfalls, made one called Jurong Falls.

2 brothers

The website, Wikipedia encyclopedia, on waterfalls defines a waterfall as "a geological formation resulting from water flowing over an erosion-resistant rock formation that forms a sudden break in elevation."

Such explanations of how a waterfall is formed are often bereft of romance and pale in comparison to the legend that makes a visit to the Maria Cristina Falls memorable.

The legend may have started simultaneously with the telling of other legends about Lake Lanao, where Radia Indarapatra figures, and in the epic Darangen, where there is mention of the waterfalls' existence.

In a Lake Lanao legend, Radia Indarapatra was looking for his brother, Radia Solaiman, who was killed after an encounter with the giant Omaca-an.

Radia Indarapatra became so thirsty in his long journey that he began drinking from the Agus River, which dried up. Angered by this, the Radia threw a large vat at the mountain wall and water gushed from it. Hence, the falls that was named Maria Cristina after, some say, a Spanish queen.

Death jump

The most consistent of these legends is the tale of Maria and Cristina, twin daughters of a farmer or *kainginero* who lived near the falls.

So kind and beautiful were the sisters that the stars paid them homage. Their fame spread and many men came to court them. One *datu* (or sultan or a Spanish military officer) wanted to marry both sisters because he was unable to decide which one was more beautiful. Instead, the sisters jumped to their deaths and their bodies are said to be buried beneath the falls.

This drowning motif, shades of Shakespeare's Ophelia, makes for an interesting probe that might offer clues to what the storytellers were like, as well as the legend's metamorphoses.

In her book, "Philippine Folk Literature: The Legends" (UP Press, 1996), Damiana Eugenio includes the futile search of Radia Indarapatra for the ring of his brother, Radia Solaiman.

Burning kingdom

Radia Indarapatra then built an irrigation system that later turned into a river, known today as the Agus River. The stream eventually flowed over the Agus rock shelf forming into Iligan's legendary falls that, in reality, is sourced from the Lake Lanao found in Marawi City in Lanao del Sur.

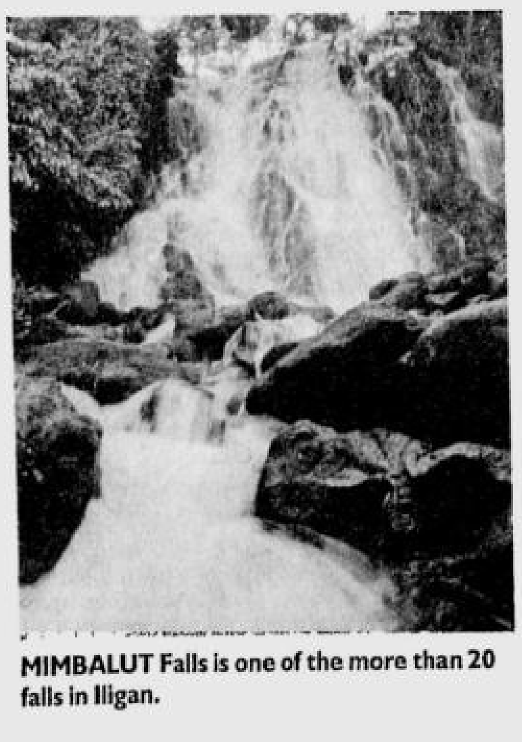
An interesting episode that connects these events with the epic Darangen is the story of how Prince Bantogen's kingdom, Bembaran, ended.

Bembaran was razed by fire from heaven after its people refused to be converted to Islam. The devastation was so great that Prince Bantogen's magical war boat, the Rinamentaw Mapalaw, was petrified and now rests beside the falls.

(The author has studied heroic legends and myths including Mindanao epics for many years. Her poem, "Legend of Maria Cristina Falls" is part of the Integrated Performing Arts Guild's Mindanao repertoire during its performance tours in Asia and Europe).

MA. CRISTINA FALLS

PHOTOS BY BOBBY TIMONERA



MIMBALUT Falls is one of the more than 20 falls in Iligan.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
32nd Annual Convention
Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila • January 24-27, 2006

Convention Theme : *"Moving the PPA Forward: Addressing the Challenges of Philippine Psychiatry"*

Messages

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. on your 32nd Annual Convention.

Your theme, "Moving the PPA Forward: Addressing the Challenges of Philippine Psychiatry", reflects your commitment to the advancement of Psychiatry in the country. As specialists in Psychiatry, your efforts to upgrade your competencies are vital to our quest for better mental health for our growing population.

Ensuring a productive life for our countrymen is our overriding mission. I hope this convention will help you excel in your chosen field and enable you to treat our countrymen suffering from mental, emotional and/or behavioral problems with greater skill and confidence.

More power and Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
Glroria Macapagal-Arroyo
President

I convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. on the holding of their 32nd Annual Convention with the theme "Moving the PPA Forward: Addressing the Challenges of Philippine Psychiatry".

The Department of Health commends your association for its continuing programs and other support services for people with mental health. As you focus on strengthening your members' professional skills, I exhort you to contribute in the task of nation building and forge stronger alliance among various health agencies for the provision of the much needed services for our less fortunate countrymen.

May you constantly pursue worthy endeavors in order to combat the challenges that beset the profession and secure a brighter and healthier future for all Filipinos.

Congratulations and Mabuhay Kayong Lahat!

Francisco T. Duque III, MD, MSc.
Secretary of Health

Warmest greetings from the Philippine Medical Association (PMA).

On behalf of the Officers and the Board of Governors of the PMA, allow me to congratulate the officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. on the 32nd Annual Convention of the Association.

PMA lauds the efforts of the Association for its continued quest for a place in society. In a country with the kind of culture we have, it is a formidable challenge to convince the population to accept psychiatric therapy similar to that of other diseases. With the increasing stresses our society is exposed to, Psychiatry will inevitably play a bigger role in maintaining sanity and serenity.

PMA joins you on your 32nd Annual Convention and wishes that you have a very productive and successful convention.

Modesto O. Llamas, MD
President
Philippine Medical Association

Program

24 January 2006 (Tuesday)
Officers of the Day :
Michelle Marie Magtalas-Mariñas, MD
Geraldine Anne Divino, MD
3:00 PM Onwards Registration
(Sapphire B Function Rm.)
5:30 PM Opening Ceremonies
(Ballrooms A & B)
Master of Ceremonies
Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA
PPA Secretary
Invocation
Felicitas Artiaga-Soriano, MD, FPPA
PPA PRO
Philippine National Anthem
PPA Hymn
Welcome Address
Sonia Castro Rodriguez,MD,FPPA,FCAPPI
PPA President
5:45 PM
Introduction of the Keynote Speaker
Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA
Keynote Address
"Achieving Millenium Development Goals: Does Mental Health Matter?"
Vikram Patel, MBBS, MSc, MRCPsych
Keynote Speaker
Reader in International Mental Health
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
6:30 PM
Introduction of the Speaker for the 2nd Presidential Memorial Lecture
Alma Lucindo- Jimenez, MD, FPPA
PPA Past President
2nd Presidential Memorial Lecture
Victor C. Viniluan, Jr., MD, FPPA, MHA
Speaker
Launch of the PPA Multi-Media Campaign
Overview of the Convention Program
Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin,MD,FPPA
PPA Secretary
Chairperson, Scientific Committee
32nd Annual Convention
7:30 PM Welcome Reception

25 January 2006 (Wednesday)
Officers of the Day:
Maria Gwendolyn Nery-Marquez, MD, FPPA
Celine Hizon Germar, MD, DPBP
"Challenges of the Psychiatrist as Clinician" (Ballrooms A and B)
8.00 AM Onwards Registration
8:30 - 9.00 AM Opening of Booth Exhibits
9:01 - 9 05
Introduction to the Session on Psychopharmacology
Chair Ruby Manalastas-Callao, MD, FPPA
9:06 - 9.25
"Psychopharmacogenetics of Addiction"
Joselito C. Pascual, MD, MSc, FPSCOT, FRCAP
9:26 - 9 45
"Metabolic Syndrome in Psychopharmacology"
Alicia Saldana, MD
9:46 - 10:15 Open Forum
10.16 - 10:20
Introduction to the Session on Psychotherapy
Chair Eleanor Lacuna-Ronquillo, MD, FPPA
10:21 - 10 40
"Art Psychotherapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder"
Josie L. Olympia, MD
10:41 - 11:00
"Psychotherapy in the Philippines, An Endangered Species?"
Jose V Cruz, Jr., MD, FPPA
11:01 - 11:30 Open Forum
11:31 - 1:30 PM
Otsuka Sponsored Lunch Symposium
"Satisfying the Unmet Needs in Treating Schizophrenia with the Current Atypical Antipsychotics"
(Ballrooms A and B)
Naveed Iqbal, MD
1:31 - 3 00
Parallel Sessions: Challenges in the Fields of Geriatric and Forensic Child Psychiatry
I. Forensic Child Psychiatry
(Sapphire A Function Room)
Chair Leah Samaniego-Gonzaga, MD
"Basic Child Custody Issues in Practice"
Noniela Calma-Balderrama, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
II. Geriatric Psychiatry
(Sapphire B Function Room)
Chair Ma. Bernadette M. Arcena, MD, DPBP
"Psychotherapy for the Elderly"
Pacita Ramos-Salcedo, MD, FPPA
3:01 - 4:00 PM
Presentation and Approval of the Proposed Ethical Guidelines Between the PPA and the Pharmaceutical Industry
(Sapphire B Function Room)
4.01 - 4.15 PM Break
4:16 - 6.15 PM Business Meeting
(Sapphire B Function Room)
6:16 - 7 00 PM
Induction of New Regular and Associate Members
Conferment of New Fellows of the PPA (Ballrooms A and B)
7.01 - 9 00 PM
AstraZeneca Sponsored Dinner Symposium
"Pharmacotherapy of Severe Psychiatric Disorders in Developing Countries" (Ballrooms A and B)
Vikram Patel, MD, MBBS, MSc, MRCPsych
Gerardo Carmelo B. Salazar, MD, FPNA
Edgardo Juan L. Tolentino, Jr, MD, FPPA
*** *Booths will be closed from 9:00-9:30 AM and 1:30-2:00 PM* ***

26 January 2006 (Thursday)
Officers of the Day :
Carmina G. Bernardo MD, DPBP
Minda Luz C. Manas, MD
"Challenges of the Psychiatrist as Advocate and Researcher"
9:00 AM - 2 00 PM
Elections
PPA and PBP (Emerald A Function Rm.)
9.01 - 12 00 NN
Parallel Sessions
9:00 - 11.00
I. *The Psychiatrist as Advocate for Mental Health Reforms*
(Emerald B Function Room)
9:01 - 9:10
Introduction to the Session and of the Speakers
Chair Dinah Pacquing-Nadera, MD, FPPA
9:11 - 9 30
"The NCMH Experience"
Bernardino A. Vicente, MD, MHA, FPPA, CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II
National Center for Mental Health
9:31 - 9.50
"Reformations and Transformations of Mental Hospitals from a Global Perspective"
Harry Minas, MD, FRCANZCP
Director, Center for International Mental Health
University of Melbourne
9:51 - 11 00
Discussion Workshop
9:00 - 10 30
II. Interhospital Residents' Case Competition (Ballrooms A and B)
10:31 - 12 00
III. Conferment of New Diplomates by the Philippine Board of Psychiatry (Ballrooms A and B)
*** *Snacks will be served at 10:00 AM* ***
12:01 - 2.00 PM
Pfizer Sponsored Lunch Symposium
"Illness Experience Among Filipinos with Depression: A Descriptive Study" (Ballrooms A and B)
Margaret B. Quanjero, MD, FPPA
Mr Eufracio Abaya
Marissa B. Pascual, MD, DPBP
Victor A. Amantillo, Jr. MD, FPPA
2:01 - 3 30 PM
"Basic Research for Clinicians : How to Get Started"
(Emerald B Function Room)
2:01 - 2 10
Introduction to the Session and of the Speakers
Chair Gerardo Carmelo B. Salazar, MD, FPNA
2:11 - 2 30
"The Clinician as Researcher"
Raymond L. Rosales, MD, FPPA, FPNA
President, Philippine Neurological Association
2:31 - 3 30
Discussion Workshop
Vikram Patel, MD, MBB, MSc, MRCPsych
3:31 - 4:00 PM Break
4:01 - 6 00 PM
Eli Lilly Sponsored Symposium
"Physical Symptomatology in Depression" (Ballrooms A and B)
Siegfried Kaspar, MD
6:01 PM Onwards
Dinner and Fellowship Night
(Ballrooms A and B)
Special Awards
*** *Booths will be closed from 9:00-9:30 AM and 2:00-2:30 PM*

27 January 2006 (Friday)
Officers of the Day:
Joseph P. Anlacan, MD, DPBP
Michael P. Sionzon, MD
"Challenges of the Psychiatrist as Filipino in a Sociocultural Milieu"
(Ballrooms A and B)
9:00 - 9 05 AM Summary of Day 2
9.06 - 10 45 AM
"Media Representations of Mental Health and Illness: Revisiting the PPA Media Guidelines"
Committee on Advocacy, Legislation and Multimedia in cooperation with the Sub-Committee on Social and Community Psychiatry
9:06 - 9 10
Introduction to the Session and of the Speakers
Chair Felicitas Artiaga-Soriano, MD, FPPA
9:11 - 9 30
"The PPA Media Guidelines"
Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA
9:31 - 9 40
Media Representations (Film Clips)
Reactors
9:41 - 10 00 Director Maryo J. de los Reyes
10.01 - 10:20 Mr. Howie Severino
10.21 - 10 45 Open Forum
Moderator Antonio C. Sison, MD, FPPA
10:46 - 11 00 AM Break
11:01 - 12 00 NN
"Affirming the Filipino Psychiatrist in Region Based Practice"
11:01 - 11 05
Introduction to the Session and of the Speakers
Chair Maria Medelin Baylon-Malillin, MD
11:06 - 11:20 Casto P. Hermino, Jr. MD, FPPA (Zamboanga)
11:21 - 11:35 Chona Cuyos-Belmonte, MD, FPPA (Bicol)
11:36 - 11:50 Manuel Luis F. Bauzon, MD, DPBP (Surigao)
11:51 - 12:00 Open Forum
12.01 - 2:00 PM Glaxo Smith Kline Sponsored Lunch Symposium
"Things You Thought You Knew But Didn't .... in Assessing Mood Disorders: Insights from the Mood Clinic"
(Ballrooms A and B)
Noniela Calma-Balderrama, MD, FCAPPI
Monina G. Cruz, MD, FPPA
Ma. Bernadette M. Arcena, MD, DPBP
Genuina C. Ranoy, MD, DPBP
Ruby Manalastas-Callao, MD, FPPA
2: 01 3 30 PM
Parallel Sessions: Challenges in the Fields of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Addiction Psychiatry
I. Consultation Liaison Psychiatry
(Emerald B Function Room)
Chair Ma. Teresa C. Icasiano, MD, DPBP
"Ethics of Psychiatry Referral in General Hospital Practice"
2:01 - 2.20 Edna Garaybias-Monzon,MD
2:21 - 2:40 Dante H. Abcede, MD, FPPA
2:41 - 3.30 Open Forum
II. Addiction Psychiatry
(Emerald A Function Room)
Chair Salvador Benjamin D. Vista, MD, DPBP
"Treatment Improvement Protocol on Abuse of Metamphetamine and Other Stimulants – A Draft Document"
2:01 - 2.30 Bonita Sta. Ana-Ponio, MD, FPPA
2.31 - 2:45 Open Forum
2:46 - 3:30
Tribute to Dr. Theodore Abas
PPA in cooperation with GAPP and DARE Foundation
3:31 - 5 30 PM
"Defining the Horizon – How Do We Move the PPA Forward?"
(Ballrooms A and B)
3:31 - 3.35
Introduction to the Session and of the Speakers
Chair Noniela Calma-Balderrama, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
3:36 - 3 55
Tracking the Development of Philippine Psychiatry; Let History Tell Our Story
Baltazar V. Reyes, MD, FPPA
Where Should the PPA Go?
3:56 - 4 10
A. Patient Care and Services
Ma. Lourdes Labarcon-Evangelista, MD
4:11 - 4.25
B. Research
Dinah Pacquing-Nadera, MD, FPPA
4:26 - 4 40
C. Education and Training
Henrietta Cabado-Espanola, MD, FPPA
4::41 - 5:15 Open Forum and Summary
5:15 PM Onwards
Cocktails/Closing Ceremonies
(Ballrooms A and B)
Master of Ceremonies
Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA
Invocation
Eleanor Lacuna- Ronquillo, MD, FPPA
Philippine National Anthem and PPA Hymn
Awarding of Plaques of Accreditation
Dante H. Abcede MD, FPPA
Induction of Life Members
Imelda Morales- Martin, MD, MHSA, FPPA
Induction of New Officers of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists of the Philippines, Inc. (CAPPI)
Mary Antoinette M. Reinoso, MD, FPPA
Induction of New Officers of the Group for Addiction Psychiatry of the Philippines (GAPP)
Bonita Sta. Ana Ponio, MD, FPPA
Induction of New Officers of the Southern Tagalog Group of Psychiatrists (STGP)
Summary of Events and Awarding of Tokens and Certificates of Appreciation to:
a. Members, Scientific Committee
Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA
b. Members, Organizing Committee, and
c. Pharmaceutical Partners
Jocelyn Nieva Yalco Bautista, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
d. Committee Chairs
Sonia Castro-Rodriguez, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
Induction of New Officers of the PBP
Brigida S. Buenaseda, MD, FPPA
Induction of New Officers of the PPA
Brigida S. Buenaseda, MD, FPPA
Outgoing President's Address
Turn-Over Ceremonies
Incoming President's Address
*** *Booths will be closed from 9:00 – 9:30 AM and 2.00 2:30 PM* ***

Messages

Greetings to all my colleagues!

These are truly exciting times for the Filipino psychiatrist. As we are constantly challenged in our multi-level roles as clinicians, teachers, researchers and advocates, we continuously evolve in response to such demands. This year's theme, "Moving the PPA Forward: Addressing the Challenges of Philippine Psychiatry", aptly encapsulates the message of how we envision what lies ahead.

I enjoin all of you to share with us your thoughts on how best to prepare the present generation of Filipino psychiatrists to face the challenges of the future. I congratulate the officers and members of the scientific and organizing committees for gifting all of us with this rich, inspiring and fun-filled three and a half day convention.

I hope to see you all as we bid farewell to a busy, albeit, fruitful year and welcome a new set of leaders for an even more challenging year ahead of us.

See you all in January!

See you all there!

Sonia Castro-Rodriguez, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
President
Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc.

The 32nd Annual Convention promises an exciting combination of learning and fun for a members an ts. The theme "Moving the Forward: Addressing the Challenges of Philippine Psychiatry" brings to fore the various levels of challenges every Filipino psychiatrist experiences in fulfilling the concurrent tasks as clinician, researcher, leader and advocate.

The practice of Psychiatry is in the midst of rapid change. We are led to new horizons with the burgeoning of knowledge in psychopharmacology and psychotherapy, the move from mental institutions to out patient care, the demand for mental health care both of individuals and populations. In the midst of all these, we ask ourselves the crucial question - "Where are we going?"

In the process of redefining Psychiatry, we too redefine ourselves as individual clinicians. The PPA takes on the task of steering all of us through this exciting journey.

On behalf of the esteemed members of the Scientific Committee, welcome to the 32nd Annual Convention!

Ma. Luz S. Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA
Secretary
Chairperson, Scientific Committee

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Across the NATION

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Muslim groups distrust Sulu war games

DAVAO CITY—MILITANT MUSlim groups said they were skeptical and worried about the reasons behind the upcoming RP-US military exercises in Sulu.

Jolo Councilor Cocoy Tulawie said they have every reason to oppose the military exercises despite claims that it will be packed with humanitarian missions.

Tulawie, also vice president of the militant group Suara Bangsamoro, said in November last year, US forces also used humanitarian missions as an alibi to rationalize their presence in the province.

But he said it turned out that the exercises were aimed at Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) forces.

"Of course, they will never admit this, lest they risk being charged with violating the Balikatan terms of reference and the Visiting Forces Agreement, which would make the peoples' grounds for opposition stronger. The people of Sulu will stand united against the US military intervention in Sulu," Tulawie said.

He said the presence of US troops in Sulu will only worsen the already fragile situation in the province.

Tulawie noted that Sulu has been the stage of two war offensives by the AFP, in February and November last year, which have displaced thousands of civilians and brought "grave casualties."

"The US forces will never win the hearts of the people by doing infrastructure and other civic activities because we know about their vested economic and political interests in Sulu and Mindanao," he said.

"The US has a clear reputation for being anti-Muslim and for warring against Muslim nations, so their mere presence might provoke war and permeate a sense of fear and insecurity on the majority of the people who have a clear mistrust against the US government," Tulawie added.

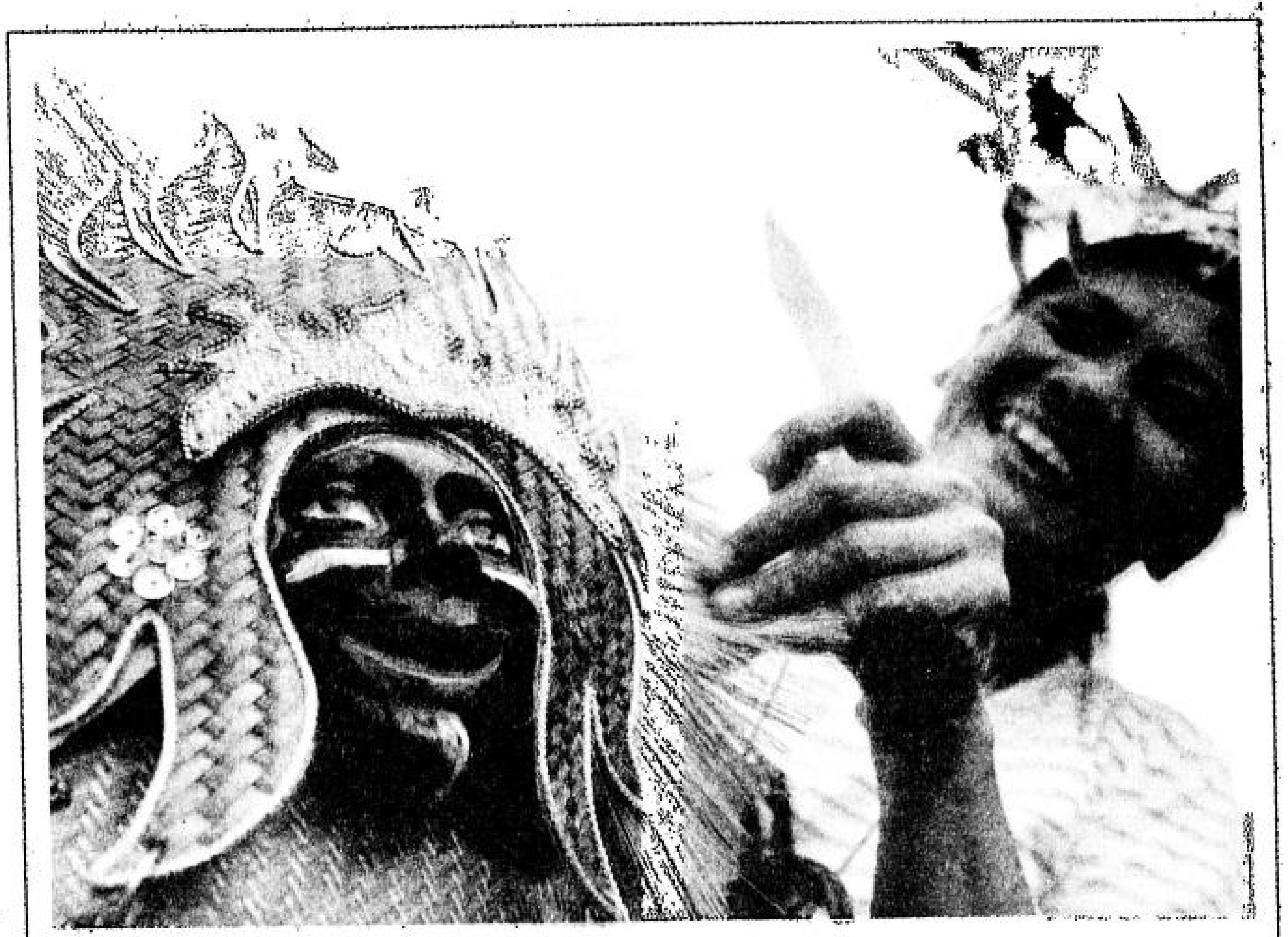
He cited as example the massacre, over a century ago, of more than a thousand Muslims by American soldiers. This is now known as the Bud Dajo massacre.

Tulawie also expressed apprehension about what they observed as a media blackout on what's happening in the province.

Because of this, he said, the military can conveniently "manipulate the truth and dismiss single-handedly the claims of the civilians about the violations and atrocities of both the US-RP personnel against the law and the people."

Former Human Rights commissioner Nasser Marohomsalic, head convenor of the Union of Muslims for Morality and Truth (Ummat), agreed with Tulawie.

Marohomsalic said that various cases have been brought before the Commission on Human Rights, independent human rights groups and Congress implicating some US personnel. *Jeffrey M. Tupas and Jeoffrey Maitem with reports from Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



VIVA SEÑOR

LYN RILLON

A vendor peddles Ati-Atihan masks for local and foreign tourists in Pastrana Park, Kalibo, Aklan. Each mask costs P150. The actual Ati-Atihan contest, where groups in colorful costumes dance in the streets, will take place tomorrow.

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Army exec vows to finish NPAs in 3 years

LUCENA CITY—THE TOP OFFICIAL of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based here in Camp Nakar has vowed to wipe out the structures of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, in the Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions in the next two or three years.

"In two or three years... we will finish them off and put an end to their terroristic activities in Southern Luzon," Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., Solcom chief, said here in a recent interview.

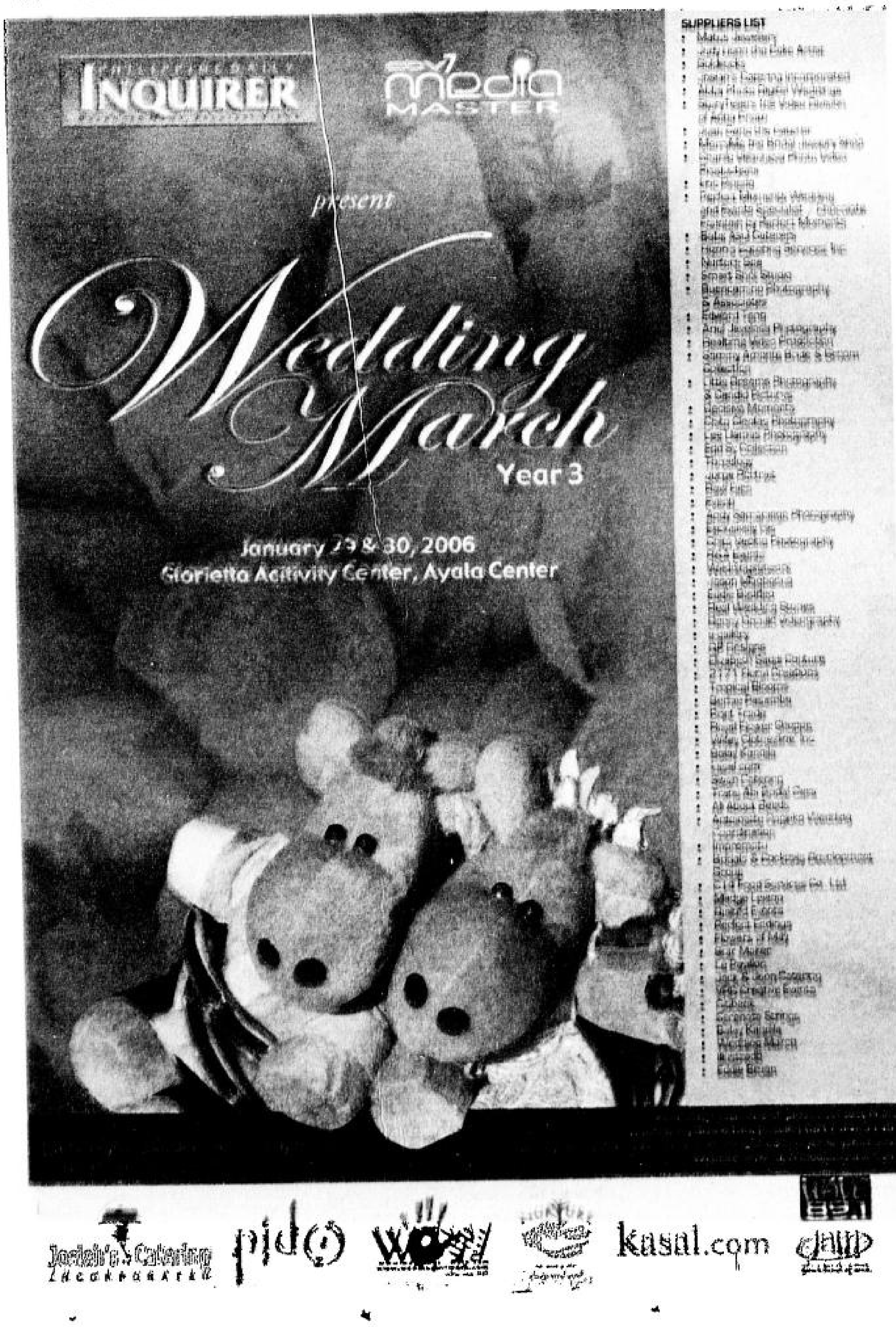
He said "the masses are now fed up with these communists, with their extortion activities, assassinations and abductions of helpless civilians, destruction of government and private properties, among many other criminal and terrorists acts."

Cabuay said he ordered all Solcom intelligence and operations officers during their recent top level conference to come out with a "better, systematic, aggressive and invigorated plan" to hasten the downfall of the communist rebels in Bicol and Southern Tagalog, which were partly considered as "rebel-influenced-areas."

The Solcom chief said government forces killed 27 communist rebels last year in several encounters initiated by the military.

Solcom also reported that at least 73 NPA guerrillas were also captured, while 37 have surrendered and are now being assisted by different government agencies in their efforts to return to the mainstream of society.

The military in Southern Luzon also claimed that a total of 58 high-powered firearms and 50 short firearms were recovered from the communist rebels last year. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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US troops start arriving in Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Three of eight US military aircraft due to join the war exercise Balance Piston 2006 starting Jan. 20 landed here on Saturday, bringing an initial 500 personnel of the US Army's special forces.

Two C-130 cargo planes and a P3-Orion maritime patrol planes were seen parked at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport's Haribon complex here on Saturday.

Five more C-130s and the rest of the participants were due to arrive on Monday, a Philippine Air Force official said.

The small-scale exercise will end on Feb. 8 and precedes the large-scale training Balikatan 2006, which starts in the last week of February.

Involving more than 5,000 American troops and almost the same number of Philippine soldiers, Balikatan will be held in training camps here, in Ternate, Cavite; Subic Bay Freeport, Zambales; Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija; and O' Donnel reservation in Tarlac.

The Staff Exercises (StaffEx) component will be held at the military's Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

SWAT sent to arrest radioman

MAHINA ANG KALABAN!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANTHONY MISTADES

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—-Police on Friday sent Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team policemen to serve the warrant of arrest on a broadcaster sued for libel by the wife of the city's former tourism officer. Al Josol, station manager of dxMD Radyo Agong, said nine fully-armed members of the SWAT team, led by Chief Insp. Hermogenes Abril, accompanied two policemen to arrest Elgin Damasco, host of the daily "Straight to the Point" public affairs program aired over the station. He faces three counts of libel filed by Sarah Manilay, wife of former tourism officer Warren Manilay.

Aquiles Z. Zonio with a report from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mardi Gras highlights Cocofest

SAN PABLO CITY—A Mardi Gras, or street dancing contest, highlighted the 11th Coconut Festival held from Jan. 9-15 here to mark the 410th anniversary of the founding of the Parish of Saint Paul. Executive Assistant Loreto S. Amante, chair of the 2006 Coconut Festival and Fair executive committee, said the affair is now included among the tourist destinations of the Department of Tourism.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Artist bound for Hawaii

BAGUIO CITY—Artist Art Tibaldo will go to Honolulu in February to serve as a filmmaker-in-residence in an exhibit for the centennial anniversary of Filipinos' migration to Hawaii. This came after the East-West Center's arts program invited Tibaldo to join the "Living Cultures of the Central Cordilleras" exhibition at the center's gallery from February to April this year. His visual documentation of traditional practices and rituals of the indigenous peoples of the Cordillera will be presented at the exhibition.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Beach ashtrays in Puerto Galera

LILINIS NA DIN BAKURAN KO!

PUERTO GALERA, Oriental Mindoro—At least 10 ashtrays worth P600 each have been installed in the White Beach area here to meet the need for receptacles for a heavy volume of cigarette butt litter. Ben dela Peña, president of the Puerto Galera Unified Tour Guide Association, which is involved in the cleanup of the beach area, said 15 more ashtrays will be installed.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 persons found dead in Laguna

VICTORIA, Laguna—The decomposing bodies of two men, earlier reported missing by the police, were found floating along the lakeshore of Barangays San Roque and Pagalangan of this town on Tuesday noon. Police identified the two bodies as those of Marlon Elona, 18, of Barangay Pinagbayanan, Pila, Laguna and one "Dodong" of Quezon City. Investigators said the Pila Municipal Police Station had earlier reported the two missing persons shortly after the boat they were riding capsized in the middle of Laguna de Bay.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ALL TOGETHER NOW: The nation directorate of the country's ruling Lakas coalition meet at the Palace Saturday night ostensibly to patch up the widening rift over two contentious proposals, to cut short the President's tenure and to postpone the 2007 elections. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA will not cut term in '07

From page A1

members (of Lakas) applauded because it was a sign of reconciliation," Lakas spokersperson Heherson Alvarez told the INQUIRER.

The special meeting of the Lakas national directorate at Malacanang was prompted by Ramos' call for Ms Arroyo to cut short her term and proceed with the holding of 2007 national and local elections to clear the way for the country's shift to a full parliamentary system and provide closure to the "Hello Garci" election rigging controversy.

Ramos, in his speech at the opening of the caucus, apparently avoided a confrontation on the issue, some of those present said.

"There was no fire in his statement," Alvarez said. "It was full of praises for GMA ... He referred to GMA as the leader of our party, our beloved President many times."

Ramos' camp could not be immediately reached for comment.

Ms Arroyo also said that amending the Constitution should be one of the party's three priorities, the others being sustaining gains in the economy and easing poverty.

Cha-cha this year

"We must achieve this (Charter change) by the middle of this year," she said.

She did not elaborate, leaving unanswered the question of what she meant by Charter change by the middle of 2006.

Top Lakas leaders met before the directorate meeting apparently to thresh out contentious issues mainly about Ms Arroyo cutting short her term to pave the way for the shift to a parliamentary government. But it was not clear who actually took part in the pre-directorate meeting.

Alvarez said only Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia, a chief supporter of Ms Arroyo's bid to stay in office until 2010, were involved in the pre-caucus.

But some Lakas lawmakers said Ms Arroyo and Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio were with Ramos and De Venecia in the pre-caucus.

Addressing the Lakas directorate, De Venecia said: "We are on the eve of a historic six months. We will see a historic transformation of the Philippines under the leadership of Lakas from a presidential form of government to a unicameral form of government."

"This has been my dream for 16 years. We have tried it before and now it looks like it will be true," said De Venecia, who has proposed a French-style transition parliamentary government under which Ms Arroyo would remain President but share some of her powers with a prime minister, who would be the chief operating officer.

Some Lakas left out

Before the caucus, former Ifugao Rep. Gualberto Lumawig told the INQUIRER that the meeting might result in the defeat of Ramos' proposal for Ms Arroyo to cut short her term because Lakas founding members, including himself, were not invited.

Asked if he expected Ramos to abide by the party decision should it support Ms Arroyo in her desire to serve out her term until 2010, Lumawig said: "Knowing President Ramos, once he has decided on something that he thinks is good for the country, he will continue to fight for it."

Administration lawmakers Pichay and Rep. Prospero Nograles said they expected the party to resolve the issues of a shortened term for Ms Arroyo and the scrapping of the 2007 mid-term elections as recommended by the Consultative Commission handpicked by Ms Arroyo.

Pichay and Nograles said the emerging consensus within the party now was to affirm the mandate of Ms Arroyo until 2010.

"I expect a solid Lakas after this," Pichay said.

Said Nograles: "All proposals on Cha-cha will probably be given to Congress to be debated upon and discussed publicly and approved. Meanwhile, local officials will continue the people's initiative to amend the Charter in tandem with Congres."

Nograles was referring to the signature campaign which local officials identified with Ms Arroyo planned to launch to amend the Constitutiion.

Prior to the start of the caucus, Alvarez said he expected the supposed rift between the pro-Ramos and pro-Arroyo groups "to be over tonight."

"I think that Lakas would continue to be the dominant party after this (meeting)," Alvarez said.

Steeled by battles

In her speech, Ms Arroyo urged her party mates to use their "superior force" to carry out key economic, social and constitutional reforms.

She said the party needed to have "teamwork and discipline" to pursue its goals.

Ms Arroyo also brushed aside threats from various opposition groups to resume their campaign to oust her, including the revival of the impeachment complaint against her.

"Steeled by bruising battles, we don't need additional training to win over our political foes in every round," she said.

She declared: "We are the superior force. Our opponents must either toe the line of the national interest for which we stand, and fiscalize responsibly with statesmanship, or be relegated to the wayside of irrelevance or ignominy."

Ms Arroyo added: "With our heavy armory of democracy and legitimacy, we shall fight the squads of destabilizers and spoilers in the opposition."

The Lakas meeting came just ahead of the expected action by the House of Representatives on the package of Charter amendments proposed by the ConCom following two months of nationwide consultations.

A total of 67 members, including mayors and governors holding line functions, had been invited to the directorate meeting.

Draft charter

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said that his "working draft" of the proposed charter to replace the 1987 Constitution would give Ms Arroyo leeway to delegate "little by little" her powers to a prime minister during the proposed transition of the country from a presidential to a parliamentary system.

"During the interim period, the incumbent President shall continue to exercise the same powers as she has now, except those she will delegate to the prime minister, who shall serve as chief operating officer of the government, conformably with the parliamentary system," says Section 8 of the proposed charter's transitory provisions.

Jaraula insisted his proposed Constitution, which fleshes out the French-style government proposed by De Venecia, was just a working draft. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

JDV on being PM: It's in God's hands

By Michael Lim Ubac

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA yesterday declared it was in the hands of God and the people if he would become the prime minister of a future parliament but said he would be a hypocrite if he said he wasn't interested in the job.

De Venecia and former President Fidel V. Ramos are the chief advocates of a proposal to dismantle the presidential system and establish a parliamentary style of government.

They differ only in that Ramos wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down in 2007 to make way for parliamentary elections. De Venecia wants no elections and for Ms Arroyo to serve out her full term while overseeing an interim parliamentary government.

Speaking alternately to reporters and on television, De Venecia categorically said he was leaving the matter of his fitness to become prime minister to the heavens and the people.

"Me? I have no ambition," the Speaker said, dismissing insinuations by several lawmakers that he was too obsessed with the idea of becoming head of a proposed unicameral parliament to the point of antagonizing Ramos, his longtime ally.

De Venecia said: "I have been fighting for (Charter change) for 15 years. I have been a relentless advocate of Charter reform and a shift to parliamentary system."

Give others a crack

"Let them have the first crack" at the post, he said, referring to Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sen. Edgardo Angara, and even Ms Arroyo.

"There are others who are more experienced, wiser and dedicated," he stressed, but quickly added: "I don't want to be hypocritical that I don't want to be prime minister."

"There are things that only God will decide."

'Might as well migrate'

Should his efforts to shift the form of government to a parliamentary system fail, then there was no more hope for the country, he said.

"*Wala na* (It's finished). We might as well migrate," he said.

De Venecia on Wednesday proposed the adoption of the French parliamentary model as a "win-win" solution to the controversy over whether the country should change its system of government.

Under the French model, the country would have a strong president assisted by a prime minister who will be the chief operating officer of the government.

Separate powers

Under the setup, the president is elected by the people to a five-year term, wields great power, especially on foreign policy, and appoints the prime minister.

Although a presidential appointee, the prime minister would wield most of the executive power. He will direct government operations, control the civil service and the Armed Forces, and ensure the implementation of laws. *With a report from Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

US paper…

From page A1

circulation of about half a million.

Copies of the editorial, as printed from the paper's website, were handed out to reporters by the Department of Foreign Affairs' media service office.

"A troubling case'

In its editorial, the Chronicle observed that the "troubling case" of the Marines charged with raping a 22-year-old woman in the Philippines "has justifiably sparked outrage among Filipinos at home and abroad."

"In this case, our (US) military leaders have a legal and moral obligation to investigate the case aggressively and enforce punishment if the men are indeed guilty," the Chronicle added.

It said that while the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement "places troops under US protection, it doesn't place them above the law."

Custody issue

The editorial, however, noted that under the VFA "the (accused) men are allowed to remain in US custody until the hearings are concluded"—a position being upheld by the US Embassy in Manila despite the Philippine government's request to hand over the soldiers to Filipino authorities.

Quoting reports in Manila, the Chronicle said that under the same agreement, "if the judicial proceedings take longer than a year, the US government would not be obligated to turn the Marines over to Philippine authorities."

Two scenarios

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday unveiled two legal scenarios should the US Embassy refuse to hand over the servicemen despite arrest warrants issued by an Olongapo judge.

Gonzalez said the United States could hand over the four accused to the US ambassador or, in his absence, the charge d' affaires, for "recognizance"—or grant them bail if the evidence of guilt was not yet strong.

Speaking on his regular radio program "Hustisiya Para Sa Lahat (Justice for All)" over radio dwIZ, Gonzalez said should the turnover of the accused not push through, he was "almost convinced" that the US Embassy "will submit them for trial."

Principle of bail

"What happens there is they would be on recognizance," Gonzalez said. "Under our rules of court, under the principle of bail, one of the modes of bail is recognizance, where one person is placed in the custody of a prominent person and that person in custody will answer for his presence during the trial."

The setup is similar to the principle that when one posts bail, his bondsman "will answer for him" before the court, Gonzalez said. The bondsman will not be jailed, but certain sanctions could be imposed on him should the accused fail to appear during trial.

Recognizance is "one of the modes of temporary liberty," he said.

Gonzalez said that although under the law "any prominent person can serve as a guarantor for the presence at the trial of the accused, the same situation cannot be applied to Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis.

Senate …

From page A1

initiative law. The executive branch has no say in it. But the GMA-FVR-JDV troika acts as if it is the Senate," Arroyo said in an interview.

Arroyo was referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel V. Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia, who had met to try to iron out their differences over the proposed shift to a parliamentary government.

Arroyo said the trio had been regaled the public with "their inanities" on how to amend the 1987 Constitution, "as if they have a say or influence on the Senate, where the Cha-cha battle ground would be."

Jealous lot

Arroyo claimed that the Lakas trio's influence on senators, whether individually or collectively, was "nil."

"In a crunch, GMA perhaps would at most have four senators on her side, FVR at most two, JDV zero. How can they make arrangements, when most of the senators can't be influenced by them on the matter, especially since it centers on how they can remain in power? Senators are a jealous lot," Arroyo added.

Arroyo also noted that most of those favoring Charter change were Lakas stalwarts while Ms Arroyo "is the only outsider."

Will outfox them all

"Yet, she will outfox and outlast them all," he predicted.

Independent Sen. Richard Gordon also said a mouthful.

"I'm chagrined by what's happening. Just like Marcos, they're trying to dictate their will upon us. How dare they?" Gordon said in a phone interview.

"The President and Ramos are trying to transact with each other to get their interests forward. If FVR wants Gloria out, he should have her impeached. They should not compromise the fundamental law of the land. We still have 2007."

"This is a vaudeville show being presented before us. This is just PR work."

Sister brew dethrones RP's king of beers

From page A1

cent in September 2005.

To be sure, SMC has maintained its share of the Philippine beer market at over 90 percent.

But the largest food and beverage firm in the country is taking Pale Pilsen's shrinking market share as a bad omen for its continued dominance of the market that it founded in 1890.

That Pale Pilsen has lost its throne, albeit to a sister brand, shows that the Filipino beer has shed its invincibility and that the SMC market was now vulnerable to local and foreign competition.

SMC officials declined requests for an interview.

Warding off competition

For over a century, San Miguel Pale Pilsen had successfully warded off brash competition—from the Americans and Japanese in the Commonwealth period to the Oriental Brewery and Ice Co. (owned by the Catholic Recollect Order), Balintawak Beer Brewery, Halili Beer, the Olondriz family's still-born Philippine Brewery Co., and Asia Brewery Inc.

But for all that, it is now losing to its sibling, a lower-priced beer targeted at the young.

At P15 for the 330-milliliter bottle and P40 for the 1-liter bottle, Red Horse is roughly 5 percent cheaper than Pale Pilsen.

Plus, beer drinkers get more kick for their peso from Red Horse, which has the highest alcohol content among local beers at 6.8 percent versus Pale Pilsen's 4-5 percent.

With economic gains failing to filter down to the masses, more Filipinos are switching brands to get more value for their money even if it means eschewing their traditional brew.

Strong beer drinkers are mostly in the class B-C-D market and are the main target of brewers.

San Miguel
Pale Pilsen
RED
HORSE
BEER

Not pricing alone

But pricing alone cannot explain why Red Horse has surpassed Pale Pilsen.

After all, Asia Brewery has consistently sold its products—Colt 45, Beer na Beer and Lone Star—at 10-20 percent of San Miguel Beer's prices based on suggested retail prices.

Interestingly, Red Horse was launched in 1982, or a year after taipan Lucio Tan waged a barroom battle for the beer market with the launch of Beer Hausen and Manila Beer.

SMC started making an aggressive pitch for Red Horse five years ago. At the time, Asia Brewery's strong beer brand, Colt 45, was slowly building a cult following among the 18- to 30-year-olds—the industry's fastest growing market.

To nip Asia Brewery's Colt 45's rise in the bud, SMC focused its huge marketing and distribution resources on Red Horse. But in the process, it left its flagship Pale Pilsen out in the cold.

Shift in taste

SMC is reportedly moving to push the flagship brand back to its old status by enticing dealers with a bevy of incentives, such as buying three bottles and getting one free.

Aside from economics, the drop in Pale Pilsen's market share is seen as a marked shift in taste of Filipino beer drinkers, who are now not keen on quaffing their grandfathers' brew.

Drinking Pale Pilsen has become uncool, especially with a bar full of beer choices not only from SMC's ice chest (Red Horse, San Mig Light, San Miguel Super Dry, San Mig Strong Ice, Cerveza Negra and San Miguel Draft) but also from Asia Brewery and other foreign brews.

Since the 1990s, traditional beers in Asia have steadily lost their grip on their dominant position in markets such as Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

It looks like it is only a matter of time before San Miguel Pale Pilsen gets swamped by the tectonic shift in customer preference in the region.

At last, a celebration of national pride and unity

From page A1

days what their leaders in politics and government managed to destroy all year.

Much like in Greece when wars and conflicts made way for the ancient Olympic Games every four years, combatants in the political arena called a ceasefire while much of the public's attention was on the SEA Games.

Who can forget that moment at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex when former President Corazon Aquino, who had called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign, sat almost next to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in the stands?

They were watching the daughter of Rene and Dulce Saguisag, Joseph Estrada's lawyer and Cabinet member, respectively, win a medal in gymnastics. Divided by their political persuasions, they were one in rooting for the tiny Caissa Saguisag.

Sterling performances

To be sure, competition in the SEA Games, the biennial gathering of the region's best athletes, was far from world-class despite the presence of world-class competitors in such events as bowling, billiards and badminton.

But the Games were not wanting in sterling performances. Diver Shiela Mae Perez, swimmer Miguel Molina, rower Benjamin Tolentino and cue artist Alex Pagulayan won with distinction and aplomb. They captured three gold medals each.

Maria Cecilia Yap, the women's singles gold medalist in bowling, and Markwin Ty, the masters champion, scored two of the three perfect games recorded in the tournament.

There were unforgettable images: of Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski on all fours after being thrown off a borrowed horse and getting back on the saddle later in the day to ride with her team toward a gold medal in team equestrian; of the ageless John Baylon winning his eighth straight gold medal in judo; of Cecil Mamiit hamming it up with Thai cheerleaders at the height of cheating allegations after his men's tennis singles victory; of the country's much maligned football team stirring to life from a long slumber and rekindling new local hope for the world's most popular sport.

Beyond expectations, the Filipino Athletes won a total of 113 gold medals, 84 silvers and 94 bronzes, each medal a story of triumph over adversity and collectively a message that they will be kicked around no longer.

Hurdling the odds

No one hurdled taller odds than did the Filipino Athletes. Hounded by the usual problems of lack of funds, inadequate training facilities and the endless bickering of their leaders, the athletes plodded on all year.

Some of them succeeded, some failed, and some never got to see action at all.

Basketball fans did not get to see their heroes win another gold in the SEA Games. The sport stumbled and did not recover, the ball fumbled by politicians who had never played the game. Suspended by the international federation when years of simmering conflict came to a boil, the Basketball Association of the Philippines lost the right to host an international competition.

Of course, some sports leaders couldn't care less. It was just one gold medal less, and there were 444 more golds to be won.

There were other dark moments, too.

Sportsmanship took the back seat in the centerpiece event—track and field—when the country's top distance runner, in a last-ditch effort to win the gold, blocked the lane of his fast-approaching Thai rival and was promptly disqualified.

The sport's rabble-rousing leader, notorious for biting off more than he could chew, fell way short of his well-publicized target in the two sports he headed. Disgraced, he choked on his own words.

A near-riot erupted in the boxing finals in Bacolod City over what the locals described as unfair scoring by the foreign judges, and the Filipino finalist had to be pulled out of the bout and the gold handed over to his Thai opponent, to defuse the explosive situation.

Three of the country's top billiard players felt they were bigger than the event and opted to compete elsewhere—for money, of course. Those who were left to pick up the banner showed there was no dearth of talents who would play, and win, for national pride.

Fair and square

Then there was the attempt to denigrate the Filipinos' inexorable march to sporting glory with allegations of cheating.

Unsportsmanlike and unstatesmanlike, the comments from Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra—sitting in the comfort of his palace in Bangkok—were promptly disowned by Thai sports leaders who knew better because they were in the battlefront of competition.

The Thai deputy prime minister came over and, within minutes of landing in Manila, witnessed Filipino tennis star Cecil Mamiit whip his Thai opponent in the men's singles final fair and square.

If at all, Thaksin's comments only fired up Team Philippines in its final drive for the overall medal championship, an unprecedented achievement that came so tantalizingly close in 1991, the last time the Philippines had enough resources to host the event.

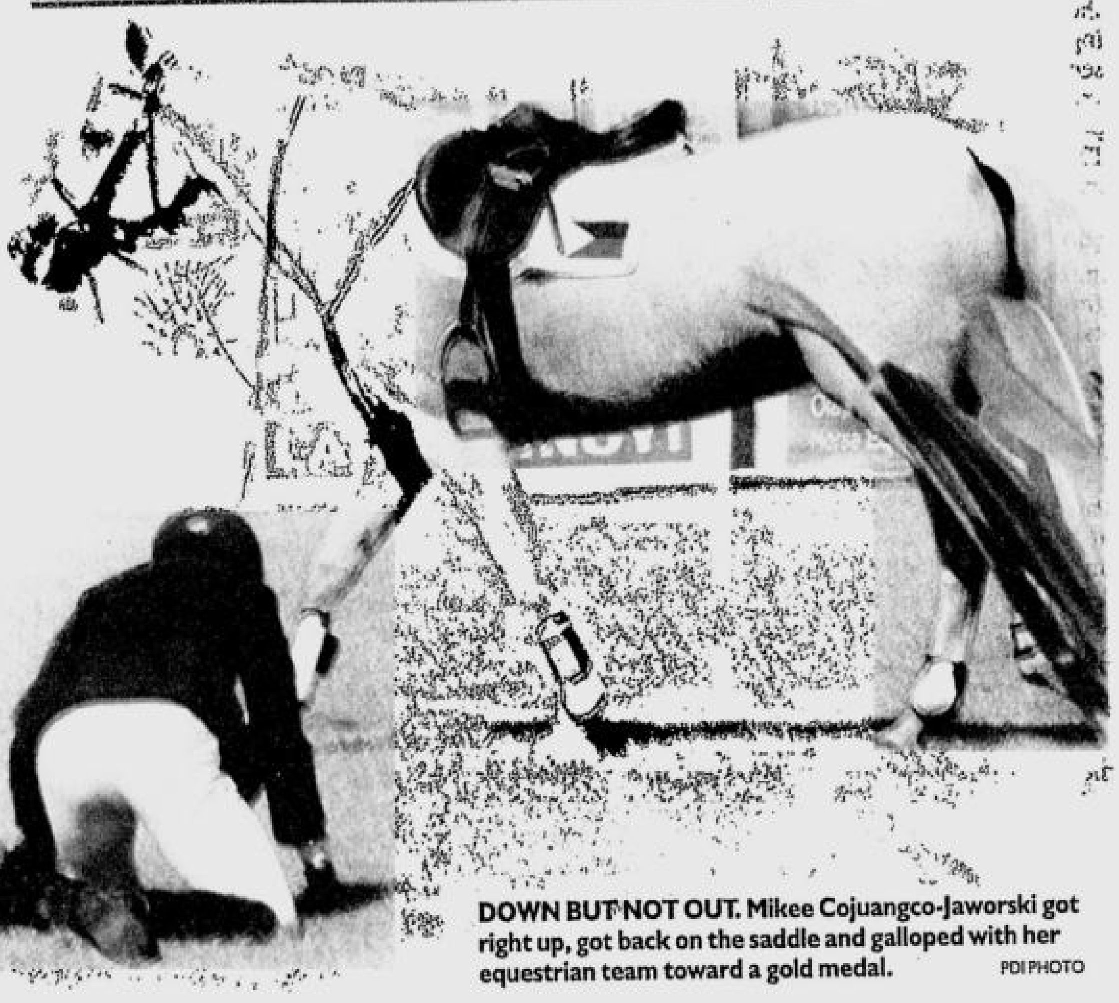
In the end, the Filipinos would not be denied. Reverberating in the grandstands of most venues of the SEA Games were the slogan "Pinoy ako, Pinoy tayo," lyrics from the theme of the hit television reality show and an exhortation for Filipinos to show the world what they were capable of.

EUREKA! Gilbert Ramirez gets the judo gold after beating his Thai opponent in Mandaue City.

CDN PHOTO

EVEN THE CHEERLEADERS of his Thai rival, number one seed Danai Udomchoke, cheer Cecil Mamiit as he wins the tennis gold, not once but twice.

PDI PHOTO



DOWN BUT NOT OUT. Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski got right up, got back on the saddle and galloped with her equestrian team toward a gold medal.

PDI PHOTO

Other nominees are winners, too

IN CHOOSING THE FILIPINO OF THE YEAR, the INQUIRER honors a living Filipino who made the most positive impact on the life of the nation for the year just past.

Now on its 15th year, the honor was first awarded in 1991 to Raymundo Punongbayan, since passed on, for his heroic and almost single-handed effort to save lives after the Mount Pinatubo eruptions.

The INQUIRER editors made an exception in 2004 when they voted nearly unanimously to honor presidential candidate and movie king Fernando Poe Jr. who had died a few weeks earlier .

For the 2005 balloting, Team Philippines got the votes of more than half of the editors, garnering 16 of the 30 votes cast to become the second Filipino of the Year honoree from sports (boxing hero Manny Pacquiao did it in 2003).

OFWs

The next nominees—the Overseas Filipino Workers and the independent Filipino film producers—garnered four votes each.

The OFWs, voted Filipino of the Year in 1994, once again proved to be a lifesaver, rescuing the Philippine economy from a politically induced coma with an injection of billions of dollars in remittances that stopped the peso's free fall and turned it into a healthy currency by the time the new year arrived.

The "indies," as the independent filmmakers were nicknamed after Robert Redford's Sundance Indies film fest, were personified by Maximo Oliveros, the title character of a low-budget but internationally acclaimed digital movie. They defied overwhelming odds and came up with quality films that would have earned them the Filipino of the Year accolade in other years.

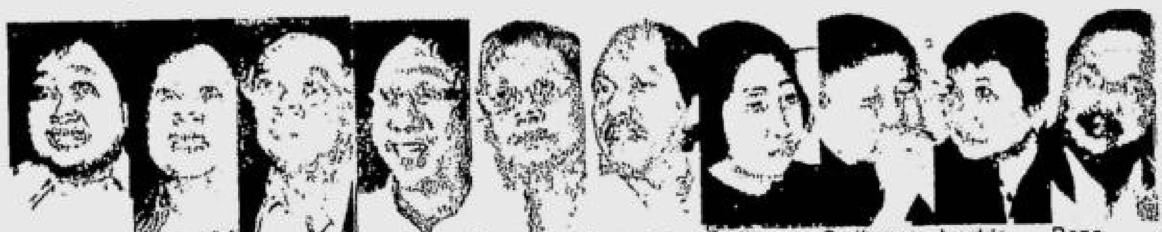
Three central figures in what had been a turbulent year in politics were also nominated.

Hyatt 10

The "Hyatt 10," the group of key government officials who resigned in the wake of the "Hello Garci" scandal, got three votes, while President Macapagal-Arroyo got one.

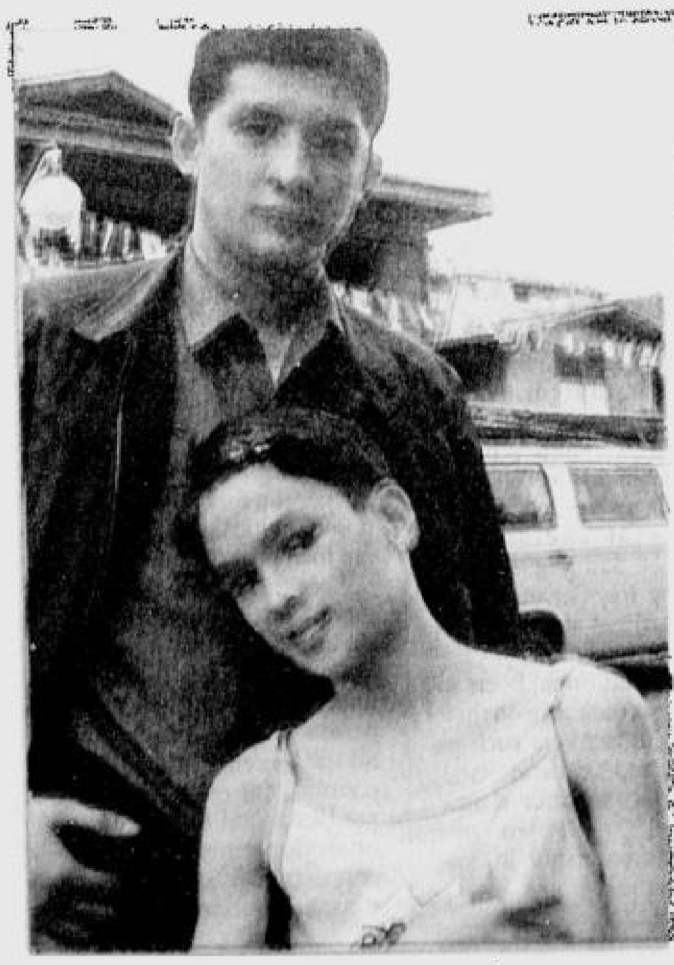
"Garci" himself, the former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, was nominated—as a joke—and received one serious vote.

Also nominated and getting a vote were husband-and-wife physicists Christopher and Marivic Bernido, educators from an obscure private school in Jagna, Bohol, who developed the highly effective Dynamic Learning Process which emphasizes learning by doing and earning by pseudo play.



Cesar Purisima Dinky Soliman Alberto Lina Juan Santos Teresita Deles Florencio Abad Emilia Boncodin Guillermo Parayno Imelda Nicolas Rene Villa

Who's Maximo Oliveros, why's he a big deal?



IN THE TITLE role, Nathan Lopez and JR Valentin co-star in a movie born to revive a dying industry.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHY IS "MAXIMO OLIVEROS" SUCH a big deal?

Let us count the ways:

- He represents Filipino independent digital filmmakers who are making waves all over the world. He embodies their travails and triumphs, their dreams and determination against all odds.
- The filmmakers behind "Maximo" have shown that it is possible to make a "surprise hit" (it earned over P4 million in its first week) on a measly budget (it was made with P1 million), shooting in the slums of Sampaloc in just 13 days with a mini-DV camera.

Born in a dying movie industry, "Maximo" then proceeded to do the impossible.

- The movie proved that a small indie film could, by "healthy word of mouth," run for three weeks in local theaters—braving competition both big ("King Kong") and small ("Chicken Little").
- It proved that a small indie film could, by the sheer simplicity of its story and the power of its message, win awards both here and abroad.

As of last count, "Maximo" has won: The Special Jury Prize from the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival; The Golden Zenith award at the Montreal World Film Festival; the Best Picture honor at the imagineNATIVE Film Festival (in Toronto), and the Best Film award at the Asian Festival for First Films (in Singapore).

Next stop for "Maximo" is the World Cinema section of Robert Redford's Sundance.

It will make history as the first Filipino feature film to compete at Sundance, perceived as the first and biggest independent film festival in the world.

It is also slated to be shown at the Hong Kong and San Francisco film festivals.

Other indies to watch

- "Maximo" is the symbol of a string of indie products that have brought home prizes from the international film festival circuit.

They are:

—Brillante Mendoza's "Masahista," which won the Golden Leopard award at the Locarno Film Festival, tying for the top video prize with "Let Etats Nordiques," directed by Denis Cote of Canada. "Masahista" was similarly invited to various film festivals near (Hong Kong and Bangkok) and far (Greece and Estonia).

—Rico Ilarde's "Sa Ilalim ng Cogon," which won Best Film at the Rojo Sangre Horror Film Festival in Buenos Aires, Argentina. "Cogon" was also shown in Cinenygma in Luxembourg last November.

—Mark Reyes' "Last Full Show," which was named Best Short Film in Turin, Italy.

—Khavn's "Lata at Tsinelas," which was awarded a "Special Mention" by the Associazione Culturale Zert in the "Spazio Immagini" competition of the Morbegno Film Festival, also in Italy.

—Lav Diaz's over 10-hour epic "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino," Urian's Best Film last year, which was shown in at least four countries in Europe in October and November (the 32nd Flanders International Film Festival in Ghent, Belgium; the Vienna International Film Festival in Austria; the House of World Cultures in Berlin, Germany, and the 23rd Torino Film Festival in Italy).

- The preteen gay hero of Auraeus Solito's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" exemplifies the best in Filipinos—his unconditional love for and loyalty to his family, his graceful grit and gritty grace in the face of macho violence and Third World poverty, his cheery optimism and willful desire "to make every life he touches beautiful."

"Maximo" teaches us to "accept and embrace people who may seem different from us."

"Maximo" makes us realize that love for family, often blamed for Filipinos' faults and foibles (their susceptibility to corruption and criminality, for one), could also redeem us as a people. *Inquirer Entertainment*

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Makati launches green revolution

"GREEN thumbs" Mary Honrado and Myrna Colambo are among the 14 workers who keep Makati City green. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INSIDE MAKATI CITY'S FIVE GOVERNMENT-run "green shelters," each flower, plant and sapling is bringing the country's financial center closer to realizing its dream of becoming a lush urban garden.

"We want to maximize our capacity to propagate plants, that's why we established these nurseries. That's why we are fast tracking our greening projects now... we want to see the city really green by the end of the year," said Danilo Villas, head of Makati's Department of Environmental Services (DES). The agency is in charge of the city's waste management and greening programs.

The five plant nurseries were put up in 1992 to support the city government's greening projects. The idea then was for Makati to grow its own ornamental plants and trees for its beautification program.

The main nursery is in Barangay West Rembo, inside the Makati Park and Garden, an eight-year-old facility that has been supplying the park's landscaping and greening requirements.

The other nurseries can be found at the old Pamantasan ng Makati compound on Gil Puyat Avenue, and in Barangays Rizal, Cembo, and Southside. Tending the greenhouses are 14 trained workers who regularly undergo seminars on current technologies in plant propagation.

Protection from air pollution

Amid an environment teeming with carbon monoxide, the city's plant nurseries have grown into formidable green air filters.

"This is for aesthetics and the beautification of the city. The principle is, plants and trees absorb carbon dioxide, and it helps in cleaning up the air," said Lydia Donato, DES Parks and Green Division deputy chief.

Makati's goal is to reach the ideal tree-to-people ratio of one is to four (1:4), as set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Right now, the city boasts of a ratio of one tree for every six persons, said Camacho.

50 different varieties

Donato estimated that at present, the city's greenhouses grow roughly 50 plant and tree varieties, including narra, mahogany, balete, banaba, molave, and eucalyptus saplings and ornamental plants like gumamelas, margaritas, lantanas, rubias, adelfas, alamandas, yellow sundrops, and bandera españolas.

"[The nurseries] are not yet enough for all the city's requirements, but they have been a big help... the city has been able to save (money) because instead of buying plants, we could get plants from there," said Villas.

"They are particularly helpful whenever we are in immediate need of plants for maintenance... to replenish those that have died," said DES Parks and Green Division chief Moises Camacho.

"Right now, we are aiming to be self-sufficient in supplying (plants) for our greening projects... there would come a day when we would no longer have to purchase saplings or ornamental plants," Donato said.

That day may be drawing near, as the nurseries exceeded their annual propagation rate last year. Donato said the greenhouses were able to grow some 106,000 potted plants in 2005, exceeding the yearly target of 100,000.

An in-house composting facility at the West Rembo plant nursery, a backyard compost system, has been providing the greenhouses with fertilizer.

To further boost the city's plant propagation capacity, the DES will open another nursery at the Ayala Sewerage Plant inside Magallanes Village, a joint project with the Manila Water Company Inc. Camacho said the nursery will open on Feb. 1.

"That would be our biggest plant nursery. They allotted a portion of a vacant lot there... we would use roughly one hectare," Camacho said.

Bright hopes

Asked about the nurseries' prospects, Villas only had the brightest and greenest hopes.

"As soon as the nurseries become self-sufficient, and they are able to supply all of the city's requirements, then it's possible that we would open them to residents. That would be an advantage for the city because we have been encouraging residents to also plant in their backyards," said Villas.

In time, he envisioned, Makati would be a garden city, with a plant growing even in the smallest of spaces.

"Every available space should be a mini plant nursery—center islands, sidewalks, even fences and walls. We should keep planting," said Villas.

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Angel has written over a hundred books and she wants to write more. JOAN BONDOC

Over 100 books and counting...

TALES OF THE CITY

By DJ Yap

SHE WAS SINGING "TWINKLE, TWINKLE Little Star" to one-month-old Maria Angelica when she heard something that both shocked and delighted her: The baby was humming along with her.

At that moment, Clarinda Martinez and her husband, Arturo, a businessman, knew that something was special about their little "Angel."

At two, the young girl told her parents reciting her ABCs had started to bore her. She then proceeded to say it backwards: "Z,Y,X,W...," and so on.

At three, Angel began to write "books" fashioned from sheets of bond paper stapled together. Her stories told of knights and princesses who shuttled between fantasy and reality as they bore the traits of her mom, her dad, her friends and all those dear to her.

Now five, Angel has written almost a hundred of these stories—and she wants to write more.

They are mostly short paragraphs about her life, experiences, and the things she has read. But they show a level of sophistication not normally found in a child who's not even old enough to cross the street by herself.

During a visit to their house in Quezon City, Angel told the INQUIRER: "I want to be a writer, a doctor and an archeologist when I grow up."

"I want to be a doctor to help sick people... and an archeologist because I want to study old stuff like pyramids in Egypt," she said. But most of all, Angel said she wants to write. Since learning how to use a pen and paper, the little girl has devoted most of her free time to writing, said Clarinda.

Angel was born on July 5, 2000 after three years of waiting by her parents who had had trouble conceiving, said her mother, who works at the East West Bank head office in Makati City.

Where Angel got her extraordinary abilities is a mystery to them, since genius is not known to run in either Clarinda or her husband's side of the family. "You can say we are above average (in intelligence) but not exceptional (like Angel)," added the proud mother.

A kindergarten pupil at St. Paul College of Quezon City, Angel is easily the "most intelligent in the class," according to her teacher Kate Ortiz. "She is very advanced for her age. She already knows how to read difficult words," she said.

Ortiz said she has asked Angel's parents to take her to a school for the gifted, or skip the preparatory school by taking the admission exams for Grade 1. She added that St. Paul does not have a system for accelerating outstanding students.

Angel has not yet taken an IQ (intelligence quotient) test and other diagnostic exams, said Arturo. They only decided recently to have her tested for possible entry to a school for the gifted, he added. "In January, a doctor from the Philippine Association for the Gifted will evaluate her skills," he said.

METROBRIEFS

Fire hits empty house

AN hour-long fire gutted a three-story house in Pasay City yesterday morning, leaving 23 taho vendors homeless. Insp. Leo Andiso told the INQUIRER that the fire started at the ceiling of the house on E. Rodriguez corner M. Dela Cruz streets shortly after 10 a.m. "An electrical short-circuit or an unattended appliance could have caused the fire," Andiso said, noting that the house was empty when the blaze started. No one was reported injured or killed in the fire which damaged P250,000 worth of property. ***Jocelyn R. Uy***

Cop kills another cop

A POLICEMAN manning a checkpoint as part of the intensified police night watch was shot dead yesterday by alleged robbers, one of whom turned out to be another policeman. PO3 Orlando Balasta, 32, died after he was shot in the forehead on the R-10 Road in Tondo. Police later arrested suspects PO2 Rosvelando Cruz, 32 and Jayson Llanos, 25. Cruz was assigned at the Eastern Police District Headquarters Support Group, although he has not been reporting for work, police said. The suspects held up taxi driver Dante Hernandez, 43, at about 12:30 a.m. yesterday. They took his earnings and pushed him out of the vehicle. When Hernandez chanced upon Balasta at a checkpoint, the policeman gave chase but was shot by the suspects. The gunshots, however, attracted the attention of nearby policemen. Outnumbered, the suspects gave themselves up. ***Edson C. Tandoc Jr.***

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Offshore Outsourcing and Global Competitiveness
Restructuring of the Outsourcing Industry
India and the Philippines: Forging Strategic Alliances
Case Study: Developing Entrepreneurial ICT Communities
Economic Implications of IT and Business Process Outsourcing
Hosted Lunch, presentation by conference co-presentor
Establishing New Markets: Breaking through the UK Market
Case Study: UK Outsourcing Model
Case Study: US Captive Offshore Outsourcing Model
Case Study: Japanese Outsourcing Model

ANIMATION TRACK
Local Talent, Global Market: Promoting Filipino Creativity to the World
Day 2, 17 February 2006
Boracay 1 & 2 Function Room 2

Welcome Remarks and Presentation of the Animation Business Plan
Nickelodeon's Testament to Philippine Creativity
Made in the Philippines: Japanese Anime
Going Global: Tapping into the European Animation Market
Film Show on "A Taste of Philippine Creativity"
Panel Discussion: Providing Accessible and Competitive Education in Animation

BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING TRACK
Exploring Opportunities in Value-Added Services Nichemanship
Day 2, 17 February 2006
Isla Ballroom 2

Moving Beyond Contact Centers: Exploring High Value BPO
Niche Services in BPO
Case Model: Publisher Services

DATA TRANSCRIPTION TRACK
Stay Sharp and Keep Ahead by Providing Value-Added Services
Day 2, 17 February 2006
Isla Ballroom 1

Welcome Remarks and Industry Update
Staying Sharp and Keeping Ahead
Expanding Market Reach in the US
Building Philippine Capability: Certification and HIPAA Compliance
Building Philippine Capability: Improving Productivity through Training
Investing in an MT company

CONTACT CENTER TRACK
Our ICT Advantage: Quality Human Resource
Day 2, 17 February 2006
Isla Ballroom 2

Welcome Remarks and Industry Overview
Market Demand for Quality Human Resource
Requirements for Quality Human Resource
Establishing Standards to Fill the Human Resource Gap
Case Model: Continuous Training Program

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT TRACK
Identifying Market Niches for Software Developers
Day 2, 17 February 2006
Isla Ballroom 1

Welcome Remarks and Industry Update
Global Software Industry Maturity Model (GSIM)
Case Study. Best Practices in Software Development
Certification Standards as an Enabler for Software Development
Domain Expertise Niche: Wireless Applications Development
Domain Expertise Niche: Engineering and Design Software/ Embedded Systems

E-COMMERCE TRACK
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Welcome Remarks
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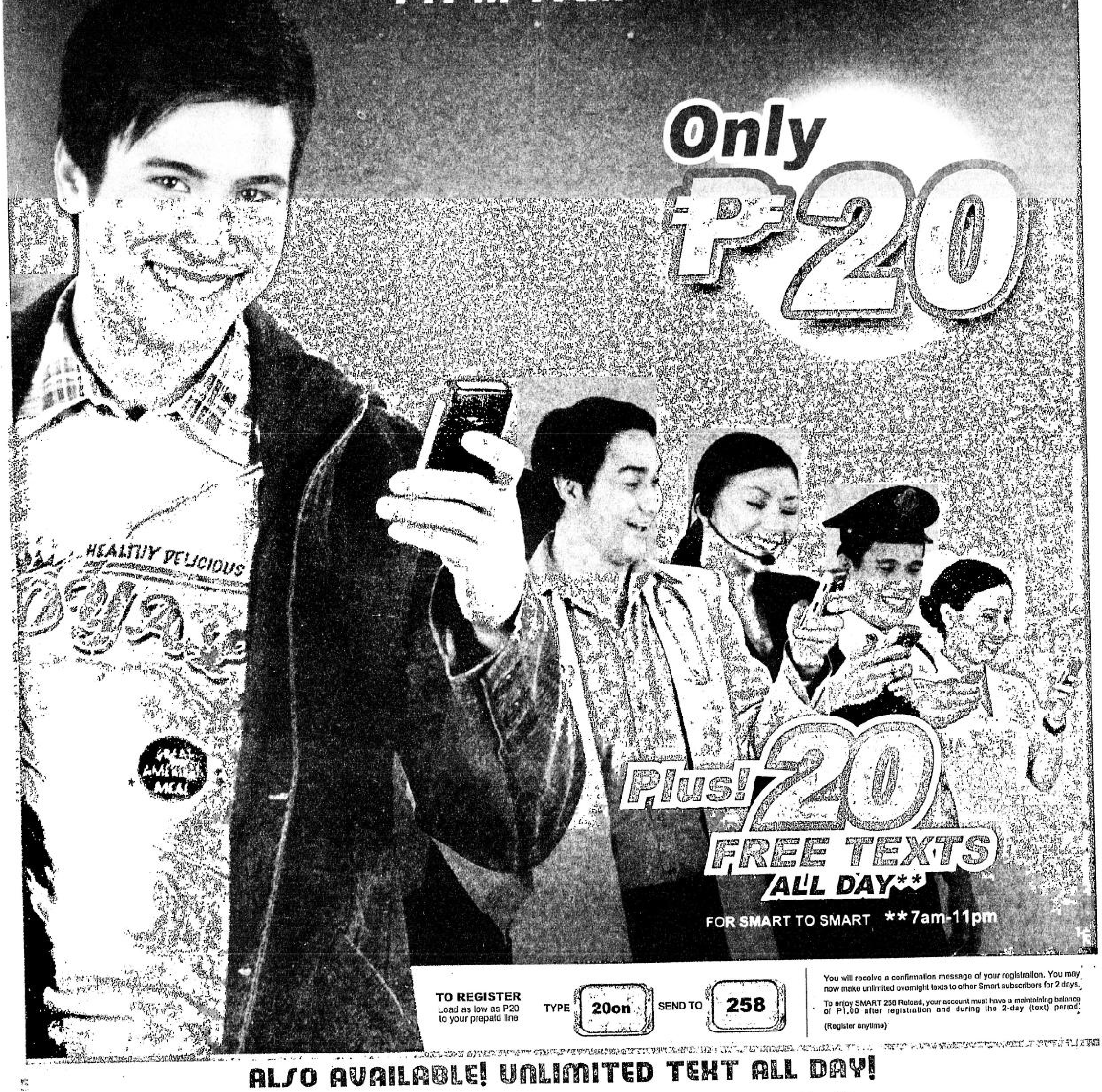

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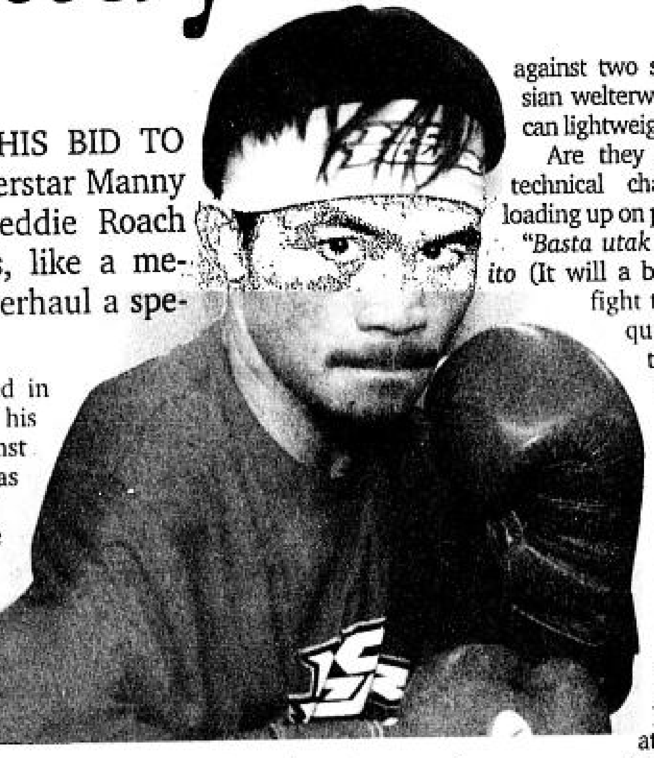
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Pacquiao overhauled, is ready for Morales

By Recah Trinidad



LOS ANGELES—IN HIS BID TO prime up boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao, trainer Freddie Roach has ordered changes, like a mechanic working to overhaul a special racing car.

Shifts have been ordered in Pacquiao's fight plan for his monumental rematch against Erik Morales in Las Vegas next week.

"Daming binabago (There were many changes)," Pacquiao, wearing a baby beard, bared after dinner of fish broth, rice and broiled chicken in his second-floor flat at the gated Palazzo Mansions here yesterday.

The overhaul, definitely vital, is being cooked up behind closed doors, away from the prying eyes of spectators and suspected scouts at the famed Wild Card Gym where Pacquiao banged it up for six rounds against two sparmates, a Russian welterweight and a Mexican lightweight, yesterday.

Are they concentrating on technical changes or purely loading up on power and speed?

"Basta utak sa utak, sabayan ito (It will a battle of brains, a fight to the end)," Pacquiao confided to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Is he finally using more of his right hand, a promised weapon which he failed to explode in Pacquiao-Morales 1 last March?

Sorry, Pacquiao begged as he explained he was not at liberty to divulge a single detail of the revised battle plan.

He did not say it but, in a way, Pacquiao was confirming some slips in the first fight last March, when he had told the INQUIRER his plain plan to rush out and run over Morales.

After the first loss, Pacquiao no longer has to be told the second fight would be doubly trying.

What could not be kept secret though was the awesome form Pacquiao has achieved since reporting at Wild Card Dec. 3 and going through a Spartan regimen that had kept him away from his family during the holidays.

Pacquiao was twice as sharp and quick compared to the first time he fought Morales, attested Noli Cruz, boxing division head of the Games and Amusements Board.

Cebu sportsman Rex Wakee Salud, whose ward Jimrex Jaca is seeing action in the Pacquiao fight undercard, swore Pacquiao's abdominal muscles felt as though they've been carved out of solid rock.

Curiously, nothing much has been heard from the camp of Morales, said to be also killing himself in training for Pacquiao in the Mexican outskirts.

Pacman strains left forearm

LOS ANGELES—MANNY PACQUIAO HAS been advised not to overwork his left forearm which he had strained after it hit the head of a sparmate a week ago.

"There's no problem, that strain would heal fully in time for the fight, but it needs a little rest," said Dr. Nasser Cruz of the Games and Amusements Board.

Cruz said it was good that the strain occurred after Pacquiao has almost concluded his sparring schedule.

"We were in the gym yesterday, but we were also requested to step out when Manny was sparring," Cruz said.

Cruz described Pacquiao as being in the finest form of his career. "He's in excellent shape and should be able to go for 15 rounds against Morales."

He said the left arm strain would not bother Pacquiao during the fight, given the proper rest.

Recah Trinidad

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Tribesmen, Braves enter finals of NBC invitational

PAGADIAN CITY—SKYGO/SIRLITZ-backed Tribu Sugbu thwarted arch rival and reigning NBC champion Ozamiz Cotta, 81-77, Friday to gain the finals of the Mayor Sammy Co Invitational basketball tournament here.

Former Ozamiz player Christian Nicdao and Miguelito Ducay scored the insurance baskets which gave the Tribesmen the chance to take their third straight title in the Nature's Spring-NBC pre-season series

After Nicdao's basket gave Tribu a 78-74 lead in the last 34 seconds, Melfred Sampilo drained a 3-ponter to make it 77-78. But that turned out to be Ozamiz's last goal.

"We'll go all-out to win our third title," said Tribu coach Al Solis.

Gov. Manny Piñol's North Cotabato Braves outlasted an undermanned Valencia squad to win 97-92 and earn the right to challenge Tribu for the crown.

Michael Erata led the Braves anew with 15 points. Valencia led 20-19 and 43-35 in the first two quarters but lost steam in the final half because it had only nine players.

The event is supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Molten and Prime Channel.

The scores:

TRIBU 81—Mercado 16, Caingiet 15, Ducay 13, Almacin 11, Nicdao 8, Ursal 7, Calo 3, BUtel 3, Sevilla 2, Luga 1, Yabut 0

OZAMIZ 77—Bansil 17, Basco 16, Sampilo 16, Ilanga 7, Guerrero 6, Aguilar 5, Ibatog 3, Cavan 3, De Leon 2, Cabigkis 2, Delina 0, Alvarado 0

Quarters: 20-21, 36-41, 58-57, 81-77

NORTH COTABATO 97—Erata 15, Jawod 11, Binas 10, Martinez 10, Reyes 10, Del Norte 9, Dagatan 6, Clar 5, Sansaet 5, Cabanog 5, Ligue 5, Tanigue 2, Mejorda 2, Coronado 2.

VALENCIA 92—Navales 20, Cruz 19, Romaguera 16, Clavel 13, Taligatos 9, Cabili 7, Braga 5, Adams 2, Cesar 0.

Quarters: 19-20, 35-43, 67-65, 97-92

Toyota wins as Wizards, Painters gain semis

GAMES TODAY *(San Andres Gym, Manila)*
2 p.m.—Magnolia vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Montaña vs Rain or Shine

TOYOTA OTIS, PLAYING WITH NOTHING BUT bragging rights at stake, nipped Hapee-PCU, 61-54, to give Magnolia Ice Cream and Rain or Shine free rides to the semifinals of the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup last night before another huge crowd at the San Andres Gym in Manila.

The Wizards and Elasto Painters can thank Boyet Bautista and Aaron Aban for their outright entries to the semis as they keyed Toyota's backbreaking run late in the game.

Toyota's win likewise afforded Granny Goose Tortillos a twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinal round no matter what happens in today's two remaining matches.

Actually, Granny Goose and Hapee finished the elims with 6-5 records, but the Snackmasters emerged the No. 3 qualifier because of a superior quotient.

In today's matches, Magnolia battles Harbour Centre in the first game while Rain or Shine collides with Montaña Pawnshop.

Both Magnolia and Rain or Shine have similar 7-3 records while Harbour and Montaña tote 5-5 cards.

The Knights wound up the elims with a 3-8 record, the same record of Far Eastern Insurance, which bowed to Granny Goose, 66-88, earlier.

Harbour and Montaña could still forge a four-way tie for third to sixth places with Granny Goose and Hapee if they prevail over their fancied rivals.

If that happens, the Snackmasters will still secure the No. 3 spot while the Port Masters and Jewels fight it out for the No. 4 position.

In that case, Granny Goose will face No. 6 Hapee while the Port Masters and Jewels collide in a virtual best-of-three series.

But if Harbour and Rain or Shine prevail today, Hapee will forge a playoff with the Port Masters for the No. 4 spot.

JR Quiñahan scored all his seven points in the third quarter as the Snackmasters finished the elims with a 6-5 record.

Jet Latonio, Axel Doruelo and Mike Gavino then scored five points each that left Far Eastern Insurance coach Bong dela Cruz shaking his head in utter disgust over the team's seeming lack of intensity in defense.

Granny Goose took several 17-point leads before settling for a 68-53 advantage going into the final 10 minutes.

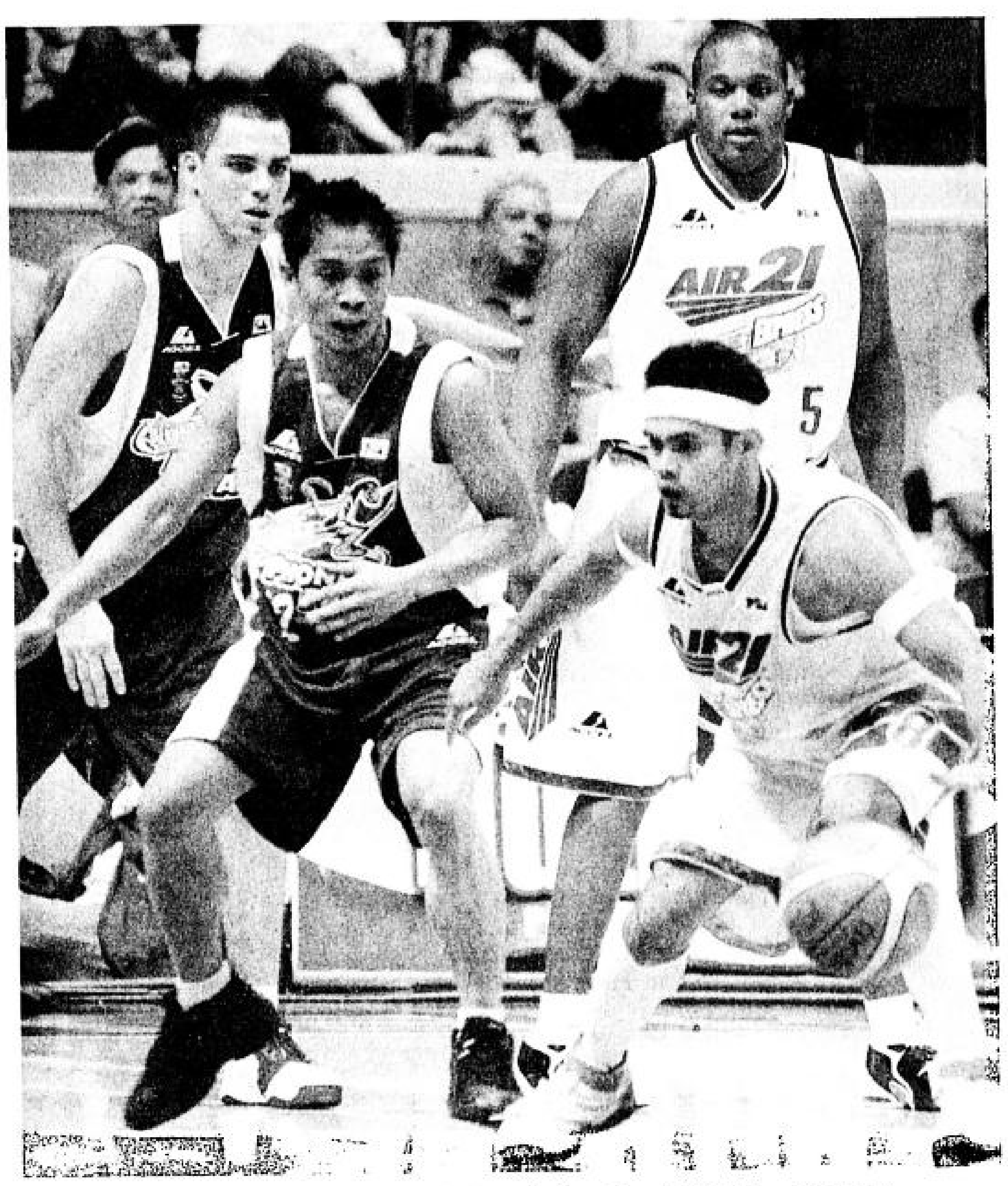
The scores:

Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS 61—Aban 21, Bautista 14, Daa 6, Devance 6, Larong 4, Aldave 3, Andaya 3, Rodriguez 2, Capati 2, Oreta 0, Alcaraz 0.

HAPEE-PCU 54—Espinas 12, Belga 9, Gonzales 9, Sanz 7, Moreno 6, Castro 6, Solis 3, Razon 2, Misa 0, Cecilia 0, Gloria 0.

Quarters: 13-18, 31-27, 44-41, 61-54.



TALK 'N Text's Felix Belano battles for the loose ball against Air21's Ronald Tubid in yesterday's game 1 of the quarterfinals.

RYAN LIM

New import lifts Barako past Aces

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:10 p.m.—Air21 vs Talk N Text
6:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska

JAMES PENNY PROVED HIS worth as last-minute replacement by leading Red Bull Barako to a 100-92 win over Alaska yesterday at the start of the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Penny, who took over from the high-scoring Quemont Greer, scored 24 points on top of eight rebounds, three assists, one steal and a block in his debut.

"Before the game, we're very much worried how he (Penny) would fare," said Red Bull Barako coach Yeng Guiao after taking the opener of the best-of-five quarterfinal series. "I guess we made the right decision after all."

Willie Miller hit back-to-back triples to lift Talk 'N Text to a 111-109 decision of Air21 in the second game.

Red Bull decided to try out Penny after losing the team's playoff for an outright semifinal berth against Barangay Ginebra. The 6-foot-5 former Texas Christian University star had been practicing with the Barako since the Christmas holidays.

"He's not a heavy scorer like Q but he's giving the team the chemistry that we need by getting the locals involved," added Guiao of the 29-year-old Penny, a journeyman.

Penny actually scored 16 points in the second half, highlighted by a three-point play and a tomahawk slam from 12 feet that ripped the game wide open, 86-77.

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL 100—Penny 24, Tugade 22, Villanueva 14, Valenzuela 11, Bagulo 10, Torion 8, Najorda 6, 8 u gia 2, Robinson 2, Cruz 1.

ALASKA 92—Allado 20, Bradley 16, Cortez 13, Thoss 10, Cariaso 10, DELA CRUZ 9, Hugnatan 7, Alvarez 4, Cablay 3.

Quarters: 24-14, 45-45, 73-69, 100-92

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 111—Belano 22, Cantrell 21, Alapag 18, Miller 14, Avenido 11, Telan 11, Taulava 10, Pablo 4, Gelig 0, Carey 0.

AIR21 109—David 25, Daniels 24, Ritualo 20, De Ocampo, R. 10, Arboleda 8, Ferriols 6, Canaleta 5, Gonzales 4, De Ocampo, Y. 4, Tubid 3, Se 0, Fran 0.

Quarters: 32-33, 55-50, 83-77, 111-109.

2 Toyota cars up for grabs in Konica Minolta Pro-Am

ALREADY AWASH IN CASH with its record P1.7-million pot, the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am on Feb. 7-11 will yet offer two Toyota cars as hole-in-one prizes at Riviera.

Danny Isla, the senior vice president of Toyota Motor Philippines, said Toyota will always "be happy to be part of a tournament as prestigious as the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am."

Isla said Toyota will stake one vehicle, "possibly a Fortuner," on Feb. 7 for the Celebrity Pro-Am. Another Toyota vehicle will be up for grabs during the tournament proper on Feb. 8-11.

"From the very start since this fabled tournament was revived by Mr. (Bert) Bravo of U-Bix in 2001, Toyota felt honored to have been invited in this historic undertaking," said Isla. "We intend to continue doing so each time our presence is needed."

BRAVO

From 2001 to 2005, Toyota has been staking two vehicles in the tournament resurrected in 2001 after a hiatus of nearly a decade by Bravo, who chairs the executive committee again with Benny Gopez, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, with retired commodore Danny Pizarro, the Riviera president, as organizing committee chair.

Gerard Cantada and amateur partner JR Tanpinco will gun for a historic third straight victory against a field that reads like a who's who in both pro and amateur ranks in the country.

Noli Kempis and Erwin Vinluan won in 2001 at Riviera's Langer and Raul and Paul Minoza in 2002 at Couples.

Cantada and Tanpinco won in 2004 at Langer when the purse in 2003 had been added to breach the P1-million mark, repeating in 2005, also at Langer, to become the first back-to-back champions in the tournament backed by Grappa's, Pivo Praha and S-Yard.

The tournament, which began in 1958 as the Fort Bonifacio National Pro-Am but got stricken off when the government privatized Fort Bonifacio, calls for a tandem to hit one ball alternately over four days of competition.

Contact the NGAP at 525-6987, email: ngapgolf@hotmail.com or visit the NGAP website www.ngap.net. Call Riviera at (046) 414-2868/2837.

SPORTSWATCH

TUP spikers subdue Earist

HOST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BEAT EULOGIO Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST), 25-15, 27-29, 25-15, 25-19, yesterday at the start of the 18th State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association-National Capital Region (SCUAA-NCR) Season men's volleyball tournament at TUP in San Marcelino, Manila. In another game, Polytechnic University of the Philippines beat Philippine Normal University, 25-13, 25-13, 25-11.

SLUGFEST VENUE: Fistorama executive producer Gerard Cantada (left) and Rodrigo B. Asilo, chair of Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, and Honorio Cruz formalize their agreement to bring Fistorama to Pinagbuhatan on Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. on the occasion of the barangay's fiesta.

Newcomers tangle in Fistorama

FISTORAMA FEATURES AT 4 P.M. TODAY A FOUR-ROUND BOUT BETWEEN newcomers Joel dela Cruz and Edgar Panague in the super-bantamweight division. Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno appears in an interview with anchorman Ed Picson in the event aired on RPN-9.

NFL playoffs live on ESPN

THE 2006 NFL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS CONTINUE WITH A PAIR OF NFC ENcounters as the Washington Redskins take on the Seattle Seahawks today at 5:30 a.m. (replay at 8:30 p.m.) while the Carolina Panthers battle the Chicago Bears tomorrow at 5:30 a.m. (replay at 8:30 p.m.) live on ESPN.

Araneta hosts LGBA 5-cock derbies

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) HAS LINED UP A SEries of 5-cock derbies at the Araneta Coliseum this year to search for the ultimate Cocker of the Year who will be awarded the symbolic Philippine Breeders Cup 2006. A prize of P500,000 awaits the Cocker of the Year. The derbies are set on Feb. 21 and 23; March 21 and 23; April 4 and 6 and April 25 and 27. A prize of P1.2 million is at stake in each leg. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said that all LGBA members have committed their support. Call 926-7808 and 924-5072 (Taz Lunasco).

Touring Car title-chase resumes today

ENZO Pastor of Team TEC-Eneos leads Jody Coseteng of San Miguel-Erg Alcotonic in yesterday's qualifying heat as they gear up for another showdown in Rounds 7 and 8 of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 today.

THE HUNT FOR RACE TITLES RESUMES as the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 returns to the Batangas Racing Circuit today in Rosario, Batangas.

While Jody Coseteng of SMB-Erg Alcotonic continues to dominate the race for the coveted Driver of the Year Award, an intense three-way battle for the Junior Driver of the Year is brewing among Renan Morales of Shift Racing, Peewee Mendiola of Big Chill Racing Team and Miguel Lazaro of Velocity Motors-Race Fans Team in the Group 3 division.

Morales, who also leads the Class B division with 147 points, is raring to redeem himself from an unfortunate incident in Race 6 that forced him out of the race.

However, he still leads the chase for the Class C crown with 125 points after ruling the first five races of this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Mendiola, an eye specialist at St. Luke's Hospital, and Lazaro share second with 107 points.

Dominic Tan of Velocity Motors-Race Fans Team is third with 64 points while Menchie Francisco of Petron Ultron-SRA and Bingo Valero are close behind with 62 and 58 points, respectively.

8th Chairman's Cup set at Mt. Malarayat

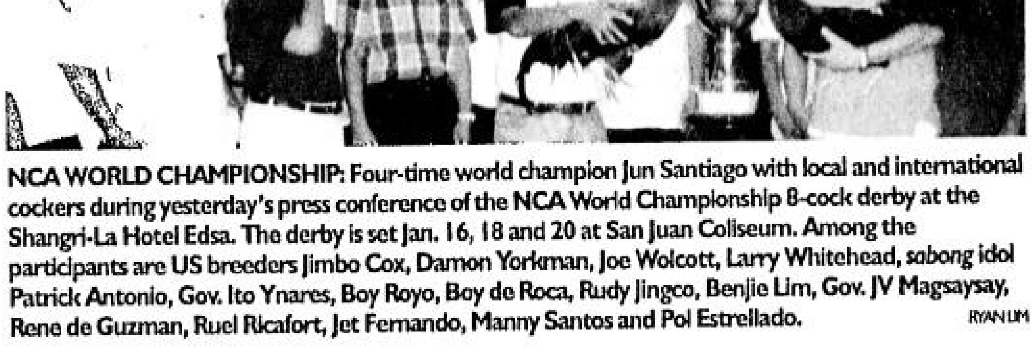
LIPA CITY—THE EIGHTH STAGING of the Mount Malarayat Chairman's Cup will be held on Jan. 26 with six division championships up for grabs and a brand-new car to be staked as a hole-in-one prize.

Registration is still being accepted at the club's offices with members to be charged P1,500 and guests P3,000 inclusive of one practice round and giveaways at the well-kept course that hosted the Philippine Open last year.

The tournament is being held in honor of Malarayat chair architect Antonio Turalba and will use the full handicap scoring format.

Cycling Search on

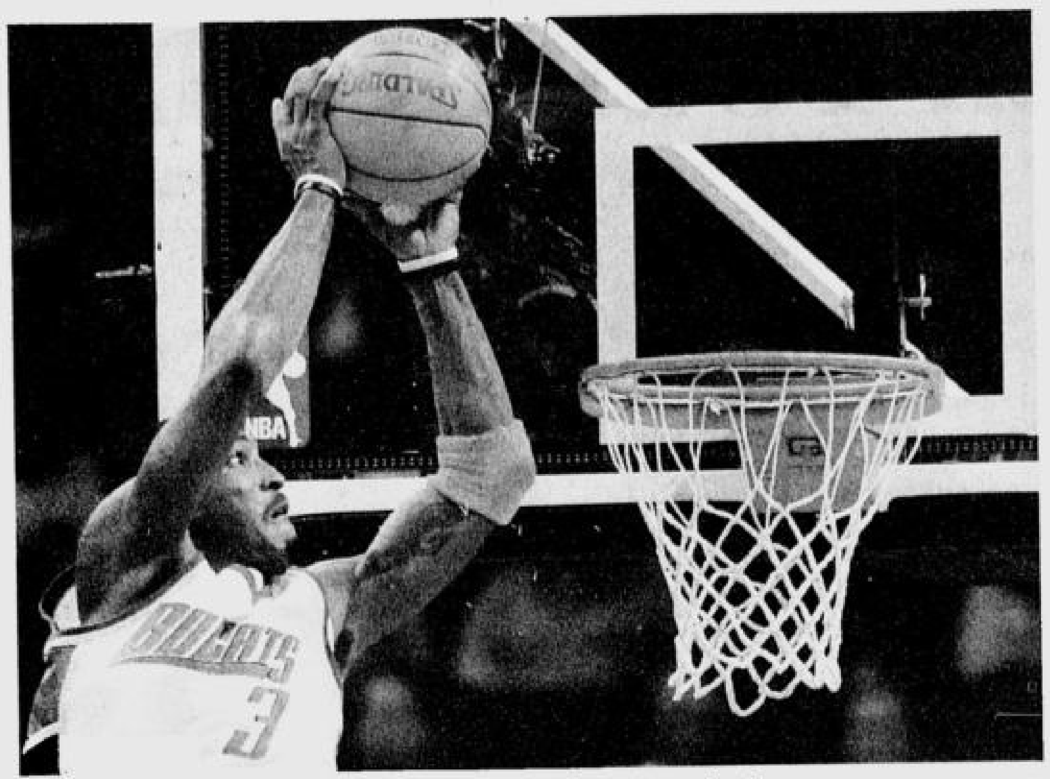
CRITERIUM RACING TAKES CENTER STAGE beginning today when the Cycling Search Invitational (CSI) kicks off its 10-leg circuit in Tarlac City. Former Asian king Victor Espiritu and 2004 Tour champion Rhyan Tanguilig head the cast in the men's elite and under-23 division, one of the four categories lined up in the event presented by Philpost and organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp. Out to foil their bid are fellow members of the Pagcor Casino Filipino Cycling team, including Lloyd Reynante, Merculio Ramos, Bernardo Luzon, Albert Primero, Orly Villanueva, Ronald Gorantes, Sherwin Diamsay and Fernando Alagano. For details, contact Treo at 687-3154, 631-0451 or 634-5104 loc. 2973.



NCA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Four-time world champion Jun Santiago with local and international cockers during yesterday's press conference of the NCA World Championship 8-cock derby at the Shangri-La Hotel Edsa. The derby is set Jan. 16, 18 and 20 at San Juan Coliseum. Among the participants are US breeders Jimbo Cox, Damon Yorkman, Joe Wolcott, Larry Whitehead, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Gov. Ito Ynares, Boy Royo, Boy de Roca, Rudy Jingco, Benjie Lim, Gov. JV Magsaysay, Rene de Guzman, Ruel Ricafort, Jet Fernando, Manny Santos and Pol Estrellado.

RYAN LIM

Knicks give coach 1,000th win



CHARLOTTE Bobcats' Gerald Wallace (3) takes his act above the rim. AP

NEW YORK—LARRY Brown became the fourth coach in league history to win 1,000 games as the New York Knicks beat the Atlanta Hawks 105-94 Friday for their sixth straight victory.

Brown, who is 1,000-762 in 23 seasons as an NBA coach, joined Lenny Wilkens, Don Nelson and Pat Riley as the only coaches to reach 1,000 victories. All four coached the Knicks at some point in their careers.

The Knicks have won six straight for the first time since a seven-game winning streak from Dec. 22, 2000-Jan. 7, 2001.

Jamal Crawford led New York (13-21) with 23 points. Stephon Marbury continued his strong play during the winning streak with 19 points and nine assists. Nate Robinson added 17 points, including 11 in the first half.

In other games, Washington defeated Indiana, 94-85; Milwaukee pipped Charlotte, 101-98; Philadelpdia outhustled Boston, 125-124, Minnesota trashed Denver, 103-86; Memphis dumped New Jersey, 81-67; New Orleans ripped Sacramento; New Orleans creamed Sacramento, 90-76; Portland downed Indiana, 113-108; and Miami whipped Seattle, 117-104.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, TJ Ford's driving layup with 15 seconds left led Milwaukee over undermanned Charlotte.

The Bucks blew an 18-point, second-quarter lead against the Bobcats, who were missing six players to injury, including three starters. But Milwaukee closed the game on 9-2 run to improve to 13-0 in games decided by six points or fewer.

Michael Redd scored 26 points, Bobby Simmons added 20 and rookie Andrew Bogut had 18 points and a career high-tying 17 rebounds for the Bucks, who overcame 23 turnovers.

Gerald Wallace had 21 points, a career-high 15 rebounds and a team record-tying eight steals for Charlotte. Raymond Felton added 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Bobcats lost for the sixth time in seven games.

In Indianapolis, Gilbert Arenas scored 18 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter to lead Washington over Indiana.

Caron Butler added 24 points and eight rebounds for Washington, which has won two straight games.

Jermaine O'Neal led the Pacers with 20 points and seven rebounds. Jeff Foster added 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The score was tied at 80 before baskets by Arenas and Antonio Daniels and two free throws by Arenas gave the Wizards an 86-80 lead.

In Philadelphia, Chris Webber had 31 points and 13 rebounds, and Allen Iverson scored 33 points to give Philadelphia a triple-overtime victory over Boston. *AP*

- NBA on Solar: 8 a.m.—Washington vs Indiana (replay at 9 p.m.)

Australian Open features top stars of ladies' tennis

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—SERENA Williams says nobody can be underestimated in this Australian Open women's draw—especially her.

All the top 20, and 46 of the top 50 ranked female players are competing in the season's major, starting Monday. But wait, there's more.

Three-time Australian Open champion Martina Hingis, who spent more than 200 weeks ranked No. 1 before she retired in 2002, is making a comeback to the majors at Melbourne Park.

While the men's draw has been depleted by injuries, the women's draw contains all the top 10 players for only the second time at the Australian Open in 30 years.

Serena and Hingis are among five Australian Open titlists and eight women who've held the No. 1 ranking in this field.

"This is a great first step to really getting women's tennis back," said top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, the 2000 Australian Open winner.

"Getting everybody playing is the first step to really getting it back to a premiere sport."

Davenport didn't think everyone in the draw was 100 percent fit, but by turning up en masse the top players were advancing the cause.

Having "everyone in the draw is really what we need," she said. "We've had a tough last couple of years. Hopefully everyone can stay healthy now for all four Slams."

The Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, took time off at the end of last season to get over the catalogue of injuries that plagued them last season.

"If I didn't like my chances of winning, I wouldn't be here," said Serena, who withdrew from a tournament in Hong Kong last week with swelling in the left knee.

She played down reports that her fitness was below par and warned her potential rivals not to believe any hype about her so-called lack of fitness.

Serena said she's aiming for a third Australian title and eighth Grand Slam title overall, and hoped it would help get her ranking back to No. 1.

No. 2-ranked Kim Clijsters, aiming for back-to-back majors after winning the US Open, injured her hip in Sydney last week, but MRI scans revealed only minor damage.

Justin Henin-Hardenne, the 2004 winner here, was sidelined with injuries last January and could not defend the title. *AP*

RACING TIPS

At SANTA ANA

Race 1—(Tri)—Mini Skirt (1), Ikaw Lamang (4), Sweet Serenade (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Mountain Eagle (3), Kaligatan (2). Shaolin (5), Nitty Gritty (4)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Look of Love (8), God Is Good (1), Happy Again (6), Banknet (7)
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Doña Nene/Santiago (8), Kay Akino/Allysa's Choice (7), Centerfold (1), Ajeena (2), Rich And Famous (3)
Race 5—(Tri)—Floral Arch (5), Mojito (3), Virginia (4)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Half Medium (5), Desert Breeze (6), Brazen Truth (3), Empire Lady (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Tri)—Friendly Venture (7), Top of D'Line (10), Kumpirmado (5), Speed King (6), Rockwell (2)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Smile (4), Money Man (6), Full of Fury (5), Eye Candy (8)
Race 9—(Penta/Tri)—The Dominator (3), Heart of Jonna (6), Stratosphere (5), D'Joy Of The Wild (1), Drink N Drink (4)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Selectee (4), Hurry Prince (8), Wild Orphan (2), West N Wild (7)
Race 11—(Penta/Tri)—Shipman (3), Lucky Joe (10), Harrod's Magic (6), Reporter (5), Interceptor (2)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Best IN Class (3), Letshaveaparty (9), SI Isidro Ko (7), Loving Thunder/Smooth Strike (1)
Race 13—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri)—My Sheik (4), Yao Man (5), Ichiro (12), Rebound (8), Hezabellagio (11), Just Joshua (2)

Hard-working teen new golf queen

By Musong R. Castillo

DEBBIE de Villa gets a victory ride from the gallery. JUN RAPANAN/CONTRIBUTOR

NELSON DE VILLA IS A BUSINESSMAN WITH a wonderful touch.

Someone in need came to him in 1999 and sold the family a lot at Manila Southwoods, an "investment" which bore fruit in so short a time.

A share at the golf club came with that parcel of land and the family was forced to try the game of golf because they were paying monthly dues even without using the facilities.

Daughter Debbie fell in love with the game, however, and everyone who saw her knew that she was an unpolished gem waiting to glitter.

On the supposed unlucky Friday the 13th two days ago, Nelson's Little Debbie struck pay dirt by winning the 44th edition of the Philippine Ladies Open amateur championship at the Manila Golf Club.

"We are giving her all the support she needs," Lilibeth, Debbie's mom, said. "It was actually not a question of support, but the push to help her become the best golfer that she can be."

By conquering a slew of veterans, the pint-sized ninth-grader at International School-Manila followed the footsteps of good friend and former winner Jayvie Marie Agojo.

"I even wore the visor that she (Jayvie) wore when she won last year," Debbie told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Jayvie doesn't know, until now, that I took that visor from her bag."

Debbie woke up yesterday morning feeling nothing different.

The euphoria of winning the Open still to sink in, the 15-year-old thought that it was just one of those days, when she had to get up for practice to chase her dreams.

"I don't know, but I just thought of golf. Of practice," Debbie said. "Nothing's changed. They (parents Nelson and Lilibeth) just told me to take the day off today."

Debbie, a member of the 2005 Ladies Federation champion team Tagaytay Highlands captained by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, does not want to slow down with a slot in the RP Team now within reach and a full scholarship in the United States in the horizon.

Nelson, who has successfully managed the family's garments business, has taken Debbie to practically everywhere there is a tournament, believing that only exposure to high-caliber events can improve his daughter's game.

She has been under the care of Bong Lopez and has totally submitted herself to the regimen that the revered swing coach has devised for her.

"Debbie is one of the hardest workers I know," Lopez had told the INQUIRER. "You don't have to push her to work because she does that on her own. All you have to do is tell her what the (training) program is and she'll do it."

Lopez is in charge of Debbie's career and decides on what the player will do and what tournament to play in. Next month, Debbie might go to Thailand for the Thailand Amateur or to Sydney for the Australian Am.

One of the next things that the family will do is for Lilibeth, who is a dermatologist, to visit an endocrinologist within the next few days to find out if Debbie, who stands five-feet flat, can still grow.

Lilibeth also called a number of friends who supported Debbie when she was starting, one of them sportsman Hermie Esguerra, who helped Debbie in the first of her four stints in the Junior World Golf championships in San Diego.

"We need to know if we can still do something about Debbie's height," Lilibeth said. "We've tried growth hormones before, but it failed because Debbie could not follow the schedule."

It took Nelson quite a lot of convincing to ask Debbie to take yesterday off, and his daughter could not wait to get to bed last night so that she could wake up the following morning and go to the range to work some more.

Wie makes respectable Sony exit

WIE: Another miss AFP

HONOLULU—CHAD CAMPBELL AND Jim Furyk each shot 3-under 67 on Friday and were tied for the lead at the Sony Open going into a weekend that again will not include Michelle Wie.

But as always, she kept it entertaining.

With a 5-foot putt on the 18th hole for her seventh birdie of the round, the 16-year-old finished with a 2-under 68 to match her record from two years ago as the lowest score by a woman competing on a male tour.

Even so, she was at 7 over and missed the cut by four shots. And at the end of two days, all she could do was wish everyone else well on the weekend.

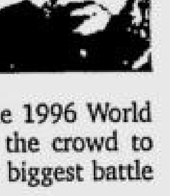
Asked the reason for an 11-shot swing over two days—she opened with a 79, her worst score on the PGA Tour—the high school junior replied, "I think I was possessed out there yesterday."

One person of note did make the cut, which was at 3-over 143.

David Duval, who dealt with injuries and the birth of his first child last year, coped with a back injury and fires a 68 to finish on the number. *AP*

Little Debbie big on Friday the 13th

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

WHEN DEBBIE DE VILLA AIMED FOR her last green of the day on Jan. 13, she said she kept telling herself: "*Ma*-green *ko lang ito* and it'd be over."

This was Friday the 13th, the last round of the Philippine Ladies Open.

Little Debbie had a two-stroke lead before she prepared to fire the make-or-break shot as her chief rival, Korean Lee Seo-jae, had reached the green in regulation. Lee was one of 33 foreigners in a field of 86—a record.

Debbie was lying three after playing out of the woods in this finishing hole, a par-5, of the nation's premier golf event for women.

Will the Friday the 13th curse claim Little Debbie, who had, at one stage, led by as many as five strokes after she had strung up three birdies from the third?

Big Jake Ayson had been a victim of the curse earlier in the rain-drenched afternoon. The pink Altis Big Jake was driving got sideswiped by a bus at Edsa.

Big Jake immediately forgave the bus driver, not wanting to miss the final-day drama—side mirror on the right dangling from the thin wire as he sped away from the scene.

He made it to the posh Manila Golf Club inside Makati's Forbes Park, just in time to join a sea of golf buffs all anxious, if not nervous, to see the birth of a brand-new star in the New Year.

Big Jake was in the company of, among others, Maling Montecillo, the still-strong matriarch of jungolf in the country, Aloma Lopez, Leni Cabili, Eden Hamilton, Mary Grace Estuesta, Gerry Handog and Vic Sotto, who ringed the apron of the 18th as Little Debbie prepared to unleash her stab at history.

Pulling out a 7-iron, Little Debbie, firing from the right of the soggy fairway, sailed her 70-yarder left of the green as gently as a vintage pilot would land his wide-body jet on a clear day at Naia.

Immediately, the crowd erupted in uncontrolled joy as though Little Debbie, garbed in bright yellow t-shirt and black shorts, had already clinched the nation's most-coveted ladies crown.

It took some restraining from the revered Alex Prieto, who once coached the RP Ladies Team to the 1996 World Team Championship, for the crowd to hush up as Little Debbie's biggest battle had yet to be won.

Little Debbie, a millimeter shy at 5-foot-flat, was to putt first from the championship foursome that included Frances Bondad, the champion in 2003 when she was 15, as Little Debbie was farthest some 25 feet away from the cup.

Little Debbie needed two putts to secure a playoff if Lee should find the hole with her birdie putt.

Little Debbie putted to within a foot-and-a-half and next putted out for bogey and a 2-under-par 69 for an even-par total of 213.

Again, there was applause.

Again, Alex Prieto, in-charge of the rope to screen off eager well-wishers, spread-eagled his arms to stop the crowd from applauding. For good reason as Lee had yet to hit the putt that could send her and Little Debbie into a sudden-death playoff.

But when Lee stroked her uphill putt from 15 feet some 2 feet past the hole—it didn't even graze the cup—jubilation enveloped all of Manila Golf Club.

As if on cue, fireworks exploded and lit up the sky to greet the new star of Philippine golf. Little Debbie's victory also signaled somewhat a resurgence in Philippine ladies golf as it came after the country had finished second behind Thailand in the recent SEA Games golf competitions.

"My life would be different from here-on, I guess," said Little Debbie, the 95-pound bundle of joy of Nelson (a garments businessman) and Lilibeth (a dermatologist) from Alaminos, Laguna.

Bong Lopez, Little Debbie's swing coach, said he was so moved that, "I cried, a first for me, after seeing a ward of mine win a title since seeing her finish among the Top 10 would have been good enough for me."

No doubt Little Debbie, who turned 15 on Aug. 31 last year, has performed beyond expectations. Only last August, she skied to a 90 in the second round and blew her chances for the title, after leading the first round of the Indonesian Open in Jakarta.

"I'm so proud of her," gushed the champ's mom, Lilibeth. "This victory has made us all very, very happy in the family.

Lilibeth's two other daughters (she has 5 children) are likewise proving to be championship material, with her 12-year-old Angela also winning the Class B crown in a side event of the Philippine Ladies Open.

Again, who's afraid of Friday the 13th?

Not Little Debbie, the latest new big star of golf.

***

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Juvic, Jerome gain Asian Tour berths

By Jong Arcano

PAGUNSAN will now be setting his sights on big money. ROMY HOMILLADA

JUVIC PAGUNSAN IS NOW A FULL-FLEDGED professional and ready to hit the big money circuit.

Pagunsan, undoubtedly one of the best amateurs the country has ever produced, earned his playing license to the coming Asian Tour despite a struggling 2-over-par 74 in the final round yesterday at the Palm Resort Golf and Country Club in Johr Bahru, Malaysia.

Pagunsan, who fired a 7-under 65 on Friday that sent him skyrocketing to eighth place, wound up in a tie for 14th with a 72-hole aggregate of 281 in the final stage of a two-week Qualifying School held in four courses.

Jerome Delariarte likewise clinched his Asian Tour card after a spectacular rally in the final round where he shot a 67 for a 284 aggregate.

That lifted him from 81st to the cut-off mark of 33rd place and ties.

There were 14 other players who finished at 284 and they all joined the batch of 46 qualifiers for this year's Asian Tour which will have an unprecedented 32 legs and $23 million in prize money.

Pagunsan and Delariarte now join Frankie Miñoza and Angelo Que who clinched automatic Asian Tour berths by finishing among the Top 60 in the money list last year.

It is expected that all four will be participating in the Pakistan Open this coming week in Karachi.

Missing out in the chase were Mars Pucay who scored 73 and ended in a tie for 73rd at 288, Cookie La'O who had a 72 for 289 and Benjie Magada who carded a 74 to share 97th at 293.

Tony Lascuna, Marlon Dizon, Artemio Murakami and Cassius Casas earlier got cut in the second round.

The 27-year-old Pagunsan leaves behind a successful amateur trail that saw him post victories in the Philippine and Malaysian Amateur Opens and the 2004 Thailand Amateur Championship.

He also powered the Philippines to a double-gold medal feat in the Southeast Asian Games last month.

Delariarte, meanwhile, gets a big boost to his professional career which he spiked with a victory in last year's The Country Club Challenge that won him a million peso payoff.

Bata keeps US diadem

REYES

FILIPINO BILLIARDS great Efren "Bata" Reyes blanked American Jason Miller, 3-0, to retain his One-Pocket Division title in the Derby City Classic Friday at the Executive West Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

Reyes, who first ruled the event in 1999, the same year he topped the World Pool Championships in Cardiff, Wales, scored his second major triumph since a laser eye treatment improved his vision.

The Filipino pool idol also shut out American Mike Sigel, 2-0, in the finals of the 2005 International Pool Tour (ITP) 8-ball shootout last December at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

The ITP victory earned for the 51-year-old Angeles City pride a hefty sum of $200,000 that lifted him to the top of the 2005 Player Money List with accumulated earnings of $279,169.

In retaining his One-Pocket title, Bata won $15,000.

Reyes struggled with poor eyesight early last year, losing the overall title in the Asian 9-Ball Tour to Yang Ching Shun of Taiwan and failing to advance in the knockout round of the WPC.

None is happier with Reyes return to form than his longtime benefactor and local billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat.

"This goes to show that Efren is not yet over the hill," said Puyat. "Efren can still play in the top level in the next three to five years." *Marlon Bernardino*

Sultan defends RP title today

REIGNING PHILIPPINE WELTERWEIGHT KING Dondon Sultan defends his title for the fourth time against Cesar Yarte today in the main event of a slam-bang Sinulog card put up by promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani and Stein Global Sports & Entertainment Promotions at the Gaisano Countrymall car park.

In the supporting bout, ex-RP flyweight champ Federico Catubay shoots for the vacant Philippine Boxing Federation flyweight title against Louie Bantigue in a 10-round fight.

Sultan weighed in at 147 pounds while Yarte came in at 144.5 lbs during the weigh-in yesterday at the ALA Gym. Catubay and Bantigue both checked in at 110 lbs for their tiff, which was originally slated for the regular RP crown before Catubay was stripped of the title for failing to defend it within the regulatory period. *Salven Lagumbay*

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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JOEL Lamangan and Lily Monteverde: Losers, they're not. By the way, which "mafia" is running the festival?

RODEL ROTONI

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Poor, poor winners!

By Lito B. Zulueta

ANALYSIS

THE RUN-UP TO THE ANNUAL METRO Manila Film Festival has not been good to critics and film lovers. There seems to be an unspoken agreement among entertainment editors to gloss over the festival's usual sins of omission and commission—questionable screening of entries that appears biased toward big-ticket movies with big stars, the drift toward making the festival a menagerie of fantasy movies that has made it look more and more like a circus freak show than a showcase of the best of Philippine cinema, the jacking up of ticket prices, and the unmitigated politicking and self-promotion.

Detractors would love to point to these practices as proofs of the decadence and irredeemability of the festival. But they hold their punches because the festival—after all is said and done—is held for a good cause. At least that's the assurance coming from entertainment editors and entertainment industry leaders.

Let there be no bones about it. The Metro Manila Film Festival is a protectionist dinosaur in an era of liberalization. We may now have a new appreciation of the wages of globalization, but we should not overlook the fact that, in most cases, protectionism has merely reinforced inefficiency and mediocrity.

Perhaps the only strong reason for us to retain the festival is that some of its earnings are plowed back to the film industry to beef up the Movie Workers Welfare Fund. The fund ensures that movie workers are protected in the face of economic crises. The Mowelfund is worth keeping; it makes the festival worth fighting for.

Myriad problems

The problems of the industry are myriad: severe taxation and severe censorship. But surely filmmakers and industry members are themselves to blame sometimes. Take a look at the furor raised by the winners of the last festival. By their irresponsible criticism and charges, they have cast in doubt the credibility of the festival, of which they themselves are the primary beneficiaries. By their reckless behavior, these "poor winners" have unwittingly trained the spotlight on the question that bugs us all: Is it still practical to maintain the fiction that the Metro Manila Film Festival is a showcase of quality Philippine cinema?

Regal Entertainment boss Lily Monteverde said there's a "mafia" controlling the festival. She does not offer any proof of this, but for any concerned observer, the fact that she has been allowed to have several festival entries—either made by her own studio, subsidiaries, or partners (this year's "Mulawin" is a co-production with GMA Films)—for several years now should indicate which mafia is in control.

This is not to disparage her contributions to Philippine cinema or to cast doubt on the selection of entries. As head of the most successful studio in the country, Monteverde necessarily has the advantage of delivering entries for the festival. She enjoys this advantage by virtue of her strengths as a producer, and not because of any fussy notions that a mafia runs the festival.

Incontestable logic

The fact, too, that her movies have been winning in the MMFF ("Yamashita Treasure" over Star Cinema's "Bagong Buwan" in 2001, "Mano Po" over Star Cinema's "Dekada '70" in 2002, and "Mano Po 3" over Cesar Montano's "Panaghoy sa Suba" in 2004) should also indicate that her efforts have been amply rewarded. If there's rigging or manipulation in the voting for the Gatpuno Villegas Award (won this year by "Kutob"), Best Actor (Marvin Agustin of "Kutob"), and Best Director (Jose Javier Reyes for "Kutob"), as she insinuates, then she should also consider the possibility that the awards won by her movies might likewise have been the product of rigging. The logic is incontestable.

Joel Lamangan, director of the Best Picture winner, "Blue Moon," suggests that politics was behind his failure to win the Best Director award. He explains that, because of his rabid opposition to President Macapagal-Arroyo, he might have been bypassed in favor of Reyes.

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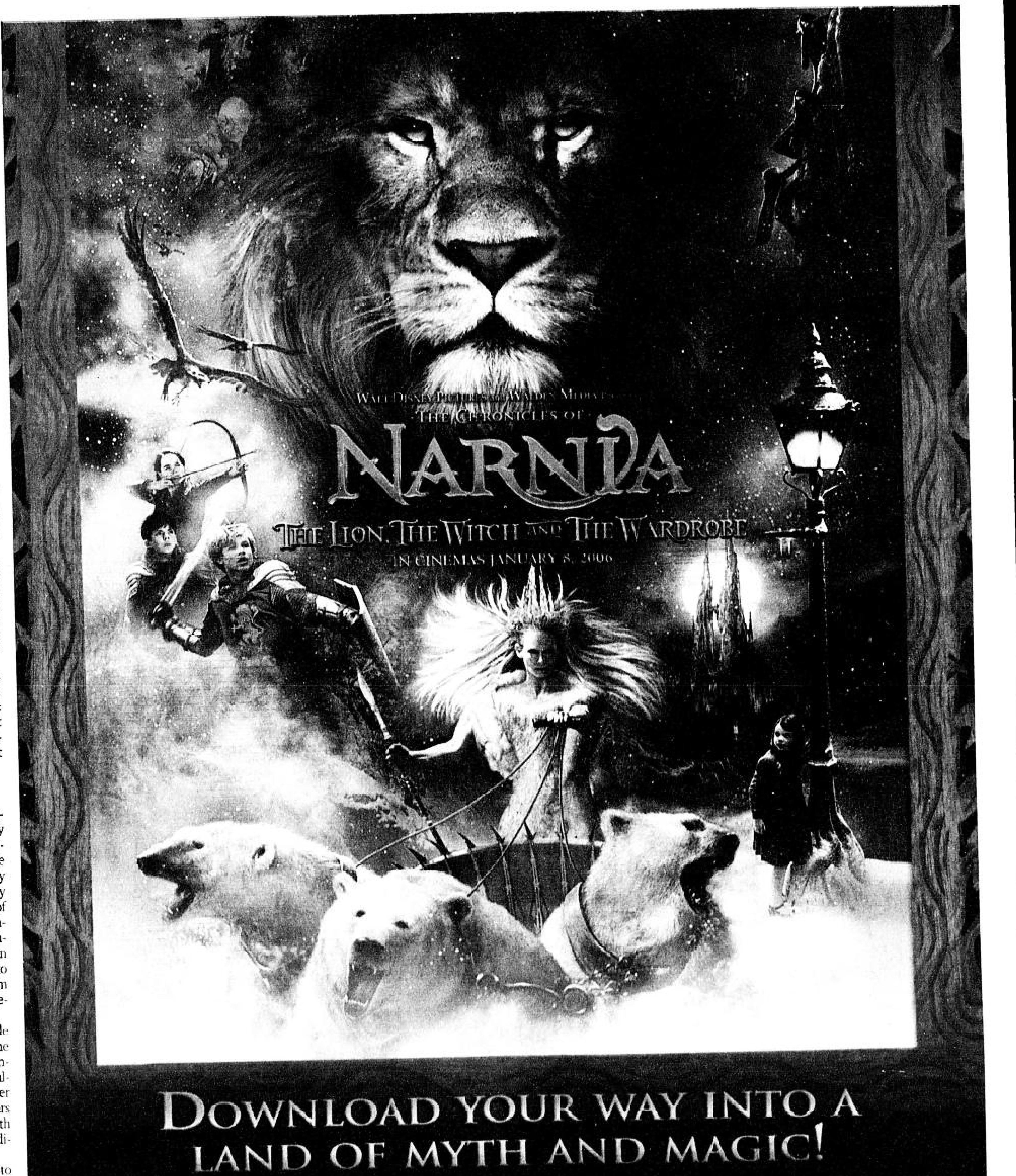

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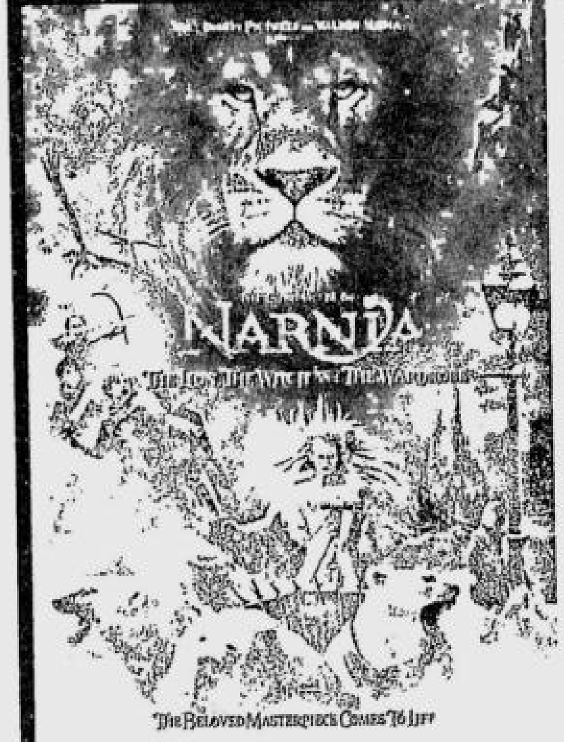
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Poor, poor winners!

From page A2-1

That is silly agit-prop at best. This most political of political directors seems to have overlooked the fact that Reyes was the director of "Live Show," which the President ordered banned from commercial release because of its "pornographic" content as alleged by the Catholic Church hierarchy. The controversy led to the resignation of Nicanor Tiongson as chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board and severe criticism of the President by filmmakers and industry leaders, such as Lamangan.

Lean field

If Lamangan is saying that Malacañang is trying to co-opt Reyes by making him win, then Lamangan must be reminded that he has been the most successful director in the festival during the Arroyo administration: he has won the Best Director award twice in the last four years. (Again this is not to disparage Lamangan, a director who has made some of the more notable Filipino movies in the last 10 years.)

Part of the reason there's so much acrimony about winning and not winning in the festival is that many still feel the awards are a recognition of filmmaking excellence. But considering the increasingly lean field of passable film entries in the past years, and the flagrant commercialization that has obtained in the festival for some time now, the awards can no longer be taken seriously. "Blue Moon" is a good film, but that's not saying much since it is arrayed against several inanities.

It seems apparent now that, while the Metro Manila Film Festival may have shielded the Philippine film industry from unfair competition by Hollywood, it has also abetted mediocrity and commercialism and made audiences a prey to banal movies, not to say the naked profiteering by businessmen and politicians, who jack up ticket prices and hold the ordinary workingman's Christmas bonus hostage to the predatory interests of the entertainment industry.

To be sure, the festival has not exactly lived up to its mission of fostering quality cinema. Having an all-Filipino-film ticket in the lucrative Christmas season was supposedly a way of protecting the film industry from the rush of glossy Hollywood movies that used to dominate and kill the competition during December. It was meant to provide a breathing space for Filipino filmmakers to train their creative sights at serious filmmaking. But it seems that what the festival has developed are movies that approximate the gloss and technology of the Hollywood theme-park entertainment: "Agimat," "Exodus," "Mulawin," "Enteng Kabisote," "Captain Barbell," "Lastikman," "Panday," and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" are glossy as they come, with no apologies.

Worse, like Hollywood movies, commercial festival entries kill the competition. They dominate the box office and even get a first crack at selection: "Blue Moon" belonged to the second batch of festival entries, an indication that the screening committee had given the priority to more commercial fare. Two years ago, Jeffrey Jeturian's "Bridal Shower" won Third Best Picture—and became a hit—even if it was not in the first batch of entries that enjoyed prolonged exposure to audiences.

Time to go?

The worst thing about the festival is that it has rejected movies that are clearly more deserving of taking their place alongside festival greats such as "Insiang" and "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?" The most notorious example is "Magnifico," which didn't pass the rather discriminating taste of the 2002 festival screening committee, who instead gave the nod to such unforgettable cinematic fare as "Home Along the Riber" and "Hula Mo, Huli Ko." This year, the screening committee threw out "Kaleldo" by Brillante Mendoza, director of the Locarno Film Festival best digital feature winner, "Masahista."

Perhaps it is time to abolish the festival or reformat it? Meanwhile, the festival could be moved to another date that can best enhance its character as a showcase of serious cinema. Christmas is hardly the proper time to show serious (read: dramatic) movies; the holiday ambience goes against the earnest, resolute nature of artistic cinema.

The dead-serious entries that try best to respond to the festival's dead-serious criteria have to compete with the holiday revelry and idiocy of the more commercial entries. And the tale of the tape shows they can hardly compete because year in and year out, the box office has always been dominated by happily idiotic movies.

So why not have a festival of family movies and/or escapist fare? Why not do away with awards that recognize filmmaking excellence and originality, and instead organize a people's choice awards? In that way, we would not anymore cringe at the sight of Iya Villana crying unabashedly for winning as "Star of the Night," whatever that means. In that way, then we could find justification for giving awards for the First Best Float, Second Best Float, and Third Best Float, whatever that means.

In that way, we would, indeed, have a carnival, not a festival.

ROUNDUP

No, she's not

EVANGELISTA

HEART EVANGELISTA is not pregnant; her manager, Love Capulong, is."

This was according to Rikka Dylim, manager of Star Magic, talent management arm of ABS-CBN, with which the actress has a contract.

"She's just been sick," Dylim told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview as news about Heart's alleged pregnancy started to spread. "Heart has asthma, and she's been having attacks lately. We just chose not to address tabloid stories that carried those false reports."

Dylim said they were also updated on the latest twist—that Jericho Rosales, Heart's costar in the TV series "Panday" and rumored boyfriend, is not the father.

The rumor was also circulated on the Internet early this week. Heart is set to address the issue on "The Buzz" this Sunday. *NiniValera*

PBB on DVD

ABS-CBN's breakthrough reality series is now on DVD. "Pinoy Big Brother (Mga Kuwento at Sikreto sa Bahay ni Kuya)" features the the 13 housemates' best and worst of their antics plus never-before-seen footage that might surprise even those who followed the show from Day One.

The Star Records Video release comes in two volumes of two discs each, and available at P299 only. It also includes the music videos of "Pinoy Ako," (PBB housemates), "Magmahal Muli," (Sam and Say), "I've Fallen In Love," (Sam), "Pinoy Rap," (Jayson and Franzen, plus a remix by the housemates). Original copies are available at Astrovision, Astroplus, SM Record Bars, New Radio City, Video City and other major outlets nationwide.

...or bust!

ANDERSON

FRANKFORT, Kentucky—Here's a bust that Pamela Anderson can't support.

The curvy "Baywatch" actress and animal rights activist is leading a charge to remove the bust of Colonel Harland Sanders—founder of chicken restaurant chain KFC—from the Kentucky state Capitol.

"The bust of Colonel Sanders stands as a monument to cruelty and has no place in the Kentucky state Capitol," Anderson said in a statement issued by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an animal rights group based in Norfolk, Virginia.

The suggestion didn't ruffle feathers in Gov. Ernie Fletcher's office.

"We certainly appreciate everyone's right to an opinion," spokesperson Jodi Whitaker said. "Colonel Sanders was one of Kentucky's most distinguished citizens, a great entrepreneur and a fine charitable man of faith, and he certainly has a place in Kentucky history. We believe he warrants appropriate recognition as such." *AP*

Yes, she is

JOLIE

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie is pregnant with a child fathered by her long-rumored paramour, actor Brad Pitt, his spokesperson has announced.

Publicist Cindy Guagenti also confirmed reports that Pitt has filed papers to become the legal adoptive father of Jolie's two adopted children, son Maddox, 4, and daughter Zahara, who is about 10 months old.

Guagenti confirmed Jolie's pregnancy but declined to give further details, including when the baby was due, or to say whether the couple had plans to marry.

Representatives for Jolie were not immediately available for comment. *Reuters*

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Mega Manila TV Households TOTAL DAY (6AM-12MN)

	2004	2005
GMA	17	18.6
ABS-CBN	15.5	13.9
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	1.5	4.7

2005 CHANNEL RATINGS BY DAYPART
Mega Manila TV Households

	MORNING (6am-12nn)	AFTERNOON (12nn-6pm)	EVENING (6pm-12mn)
GMA	9.7	19.0	27.0
ABS-CBN	7.5	14.2	19.8
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	2.2	4.8	7.2

18 OUT OF THE TOP 20 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA
Mega Manila TV Households

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING%
1	FULL HOUSE (primetime)	GMA	42.3
2-3	DARNA	GMA	38.4
	ENCANTADIA	GMA	38.4
4	MULAWIN	GMA	36.4
5	ALL ABOUT EVE	GMA	34.6
6	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	GMA	34.2
7	LOVERS IN PARIS	ABS-CBN	33.2
8-9	EXTRA CHALLENGE	GMA	32.8
	SUGO	GMA	32.8
10	ETHERIA	GMA	31.8
11	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS	GMA	31.7
12	KAKABAKA-BOO!	GMA	30.2
13	JEWEL IN THE PALACE	GMA	29.7
14	24 ORAS	GMA	29.3
15	STARSTRUCK -NATIONWIDE INVASION	GMA	29.1
16	PINOY POP SUPERSTAR YEAR 2	GMA	28.0
17	SLAM DUNK	GMA	27.9
18	STARSTRUCK 2	GMA	27.8
19	ATTIC CAT	GMA	27.2
20	KAMPANERANG KUBA	ABS-CBN	26.9

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*ASIAN TV AWARDS

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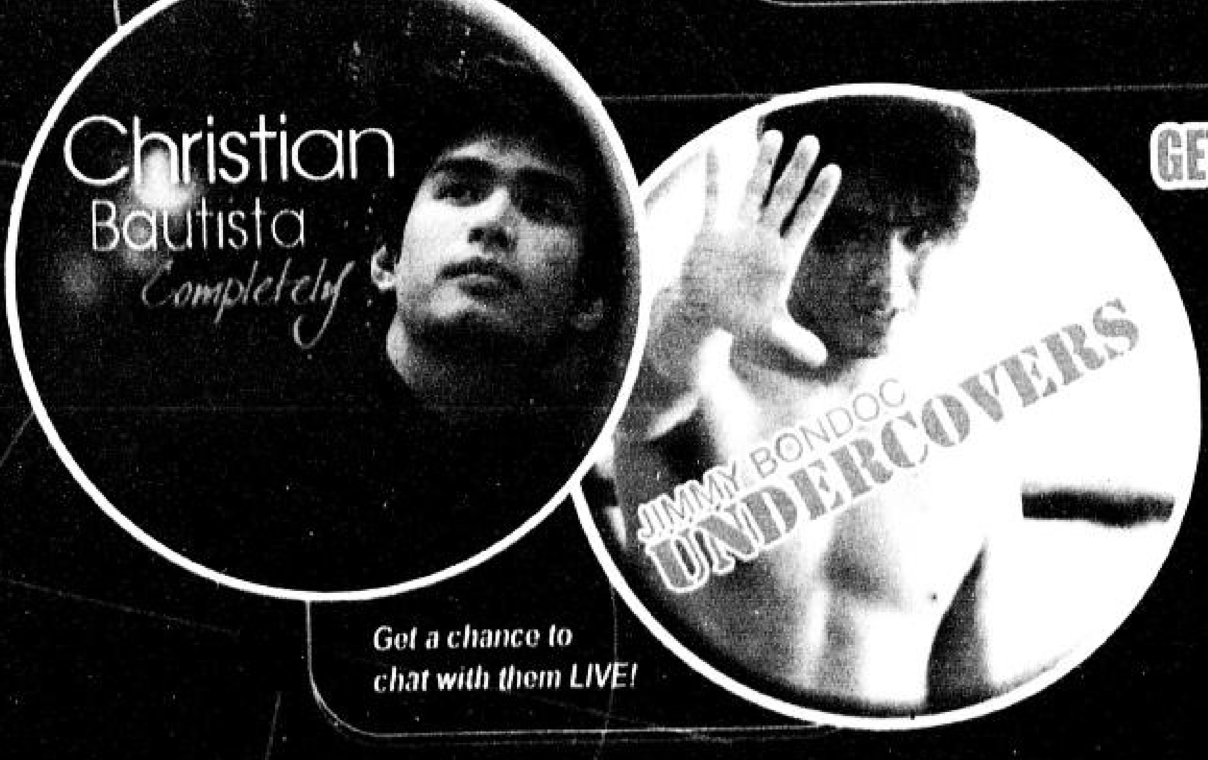

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Kate thinks Scott tied 'it' to his leg during their love scene

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Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WILL GEORGE **Clooney** score a triple whammy at this Monday's Golden Globe Awards? Will he win the Best Director, Best Supporting Actor and Best Screenplay (with **Grant Heslov**) awards?

In addition to voting for the first time in the Golden Globes, I also worked for the first time in this awards event (I am writing this at the Beverly Hilton Hotel where the show is held every year).

Other "intriguing" questions:

Will **Felicity Huffman** leave her co-stars "desperate" if she wins both as Best Actress in film (drama) and TV series (musical or comedy)?

Will both new parents **Heath Ledger** and **Michelle Williams** triumph as Best Actor (film, drama) and Best Supporting Actress (film), respectively?

Will **Donald** and **Kiefer Sutherland** make it a victorious father-son evening? Kiefer has one chance in the Best Actor, TV series (drama) category while Donald has two—in the Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor in a TV movie or miniseries categories.

Will the husband-and-wife team of **Paul Newman** and **Joanne Woodward** make it as Best Supporting Actor and Actress, respectively, in a TV movie or miniseries?

Completing what could be a family night is the presence of **Don Johnson** and **Melanie Griffith** who are separated but friendly toward each other and definitely proud of their daughter, **Dakota Johnson**, who is this year's Miss Golden Globe. Dakota, who will assist in the ceremony, is the first daughter of a former Miss Golden Globe (Melanie had the honor in 1975) to ever be selected.

Vampire Kate

KATE **Beckinsale** reprises her vampire role in "Underworld Evolution" but she wasn't playing one when we met her last December at the oh-so-vampirish hour of 5 a.m. Was she doing her vampire act on us at that ungodly hour in Hollywood? No, she was up early with **Matt Damon** and **Steve Carell** to announce the Golden Globe nominations.

A reporter wrote that Kate's "gown was extremely alarming at that hour" but we beg to differ. She was a welcome sight to us, unwashed journalists struggling to wake up. When Kate stepped down from the stage after the announcement, she told me how she seemed radiant and alert in that dawn setting: "I have a child so this is nothing. I'm used to waking up at odd hours."

Forward to a much more civilized time (after lunch) in January and Kate was even in higher spirits. Wearing a sexy top and pants, the star who rose to fame in "Pearl Harbor" and "Serendipity" was sweet, funny and a bit naughty as she talked about her life as an actress (read on as she revealed the dilemma faced by her "Underworld Evolution" leading man **Scott Speedman** in their love scenes), wife and mother.

This Oxford-educated beauty said that this sequel to the $100 million worldwide hit felt like making a family movie since her ex-boyfriend, **Michael Sheen** and their daughter, **Lily Sheen**, also appear and they were all directed by her husband, **Len Wiseman**. Well, not exactly a family movie since the film continues the first one's saga of action-filled battles, vampires, werewolves and forbidden love.

Below are excerpts of our rambling conversation with Kate:

Were you nervous about having the important job of announcing this year's Golden Globe nominees?

I was actually okay. Reading [is] my one real area of total confidence (laughs).

What was it like to be directed by your own husband? And in your love scenes with Scott Speedman, how did you both get into the mood?

I knew I was in good and safe hands with the director. I knew he had an investment in not showing anything I didn't want to show. And then Scott Speedman has become kind of like our family pet (laughs) so it wasn't very intimidating. It was almost like when you're on an airplane and you're a little bit nervous about flying but the person next to you is having such a panic attack that you suddenly feel very calm.

Scott was in hell (laughs) and suddenly I felt so much better about it. I think because he has some movable parts and things, you know. For a man, a love scene is much more intimidating anyway because if it moves around, then it's embarrassing. But if it doesn't move around, it's kind of insulting to the woman in the love scene. There's a whole dilemma of what to really do with that so I think he tied it to his leg (laughs). I think it hurt quite a lot. I think he tied it too tight (laughs). And my husband was videotaping the whole thing! So I was all right but Scott had a hard time (laughs).

Did you get injured while making this movie?

Not much. I just hurt myself doing stupid things, like running past something while holding a gun and I banged my elbow really bad. I punched one of my favorite stuntmen in the face by accident and I cried. We had to stop because I burst into tears (laughs).

Did you have an input in the creation of your sexy costume?

I didn't. In fact, it was the exact same costume from the first movie before I even knew Len. They had to get slightly different latex this time because the factory in Budapest had closed down or something, so we had a couple of problems the first couple of weeks. Every

KATE/ A3-2

KATE Beckinsale reprises vampire role in "Underworld Evolution."

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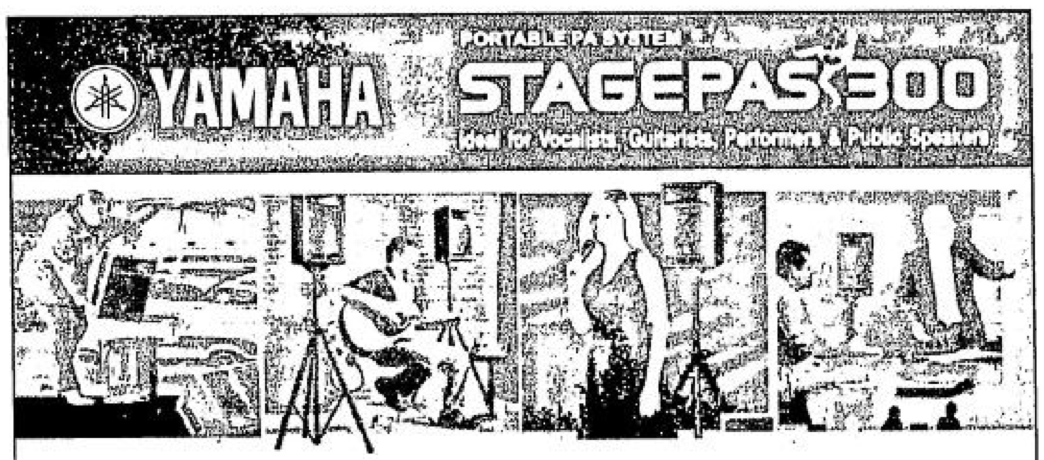

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Kate thinks Scott tied 'it'...

From page A3-1

time I'd move an arm or a leg, the crotch or armpit would rip or something like that, so we had a bit more fun on this one (laughs).

Do you prefer this type of movie to, say, "Serendipity"?

I love watching action movies. I know it seems like a sort of no-acting-required job but for me it's very much against my instincts and my comfort zone so I did this to stretch myself and give myself a different [set] of acting muscles. I am more comfortable in dramas and comedies.

> 'Actors always take home their screen personas'

Do you find it easy or hard to leave your character on the set, considering that your husband is the director?

I tend not to stab him in the throat or anything like that (laughs) but the thing about this movie that was fun was that I was on it before the script was even written. I was a part of talking about ideas and figuring out the story and right up to the end of the editing process. Directors usually never let you come in before it's all ready so I had much more input this time, much more insight into it so we probably did take it home a little bit more on this one than usual. Actors always think they don't take the character home but they do.

Would you work with Len again?

Oh, definitely. The nice thing is that we met on a movie, so our working relationship was really good from the beginning. That was probably why we ended up dating and getting married. We knew it was solid and that was nice. I didn't suddenly discover he was this person who shouted at everybody all day. I knew what he was like at work so it was good.

How does it work since Len told us earlier that his family is a bit traditional while your family is more into...

Sex Pistols (laughs), yeah. Right. The families are very different. My mother was in "Hair"—my parents are actors. My stepfather is a director. Everybody's very comfortable talking about everything. Len's parents are more traditional. They weren't in "Hair" (laughs) so it's different right there. But nobody's freaky in my family—it's not free like that—and his parents aren't super uptight. Our families are just different

Len also told us that he hired Michael at your urging. The three of you get on very well, we presume.

Yes, we're very lucky. That's one thing that I've worked very hard at. So have Michael and Len. We make sure that it's a really good experience for all of us and for Lily. I spent nearly 10 years of my life with Michael. I don't think I've got horrible taste, you know. I really do value the friendship that I have with Michael and I value the fact that he's Lily's dad. I don't see how you could spend all of your 20s with somebody and end up hating him. Certainly not in my life. Whether the relationship was right or wrong for you doesn't mean that afterward, there can't be a relationship. We feel very modern and groovy about that.

And how did Lily get cast in the movie as well?

Len and I got kind of suckered into it by the fact that because he was directing it, I was in it and Scott who's our dog was in it (laughs), our friends and people who were in our wedding were in this film, it didn't feel like a real movie. It was like Lily's in our home movie and that's coming out. I thought, well, it's only a half a day of filming for her and she heard that they were doing a flashback of my character as a young girl.

Lily heard that Len was going to meet a five-year-old and she did give him a look of like, but you have a five-year-old (laughs). So we figured, okay, and I actually thought she'd be really bored and wouldn't take Len seriously as an authority figure. She was extremely professional and requested that she be called Celine all day. She was very excited by the fact that there were donuts everywhere on the set.

She has a small part in my next film, "Click," as well. But now she absolutely doesn't want to be an actress. She wants to be a writer and so it worked out. That is good. She got her SAG (Screen Actors Guild) card in the post. She opened it and said, "I don't think I want to do this" and I said, "Oh really, why?" She said, "Well, it says I have to send them $100 and I don't want to spend any of my money (laughs)."

There's a huge fan base for "Underworld." Do you keep in touch with the fans?

I don't. That's maybe too close for comfort. But I've been to a few of those comic book conventions. You get to realize there's this whole section of people who like to sharpen their teeth and talk about blood and stuff all night (laughs). It's quite surprising. They arrive dressed up as my character.

Will you return to this character for a third time?

I don't know about that. Ask me in a couple of years (laughs).

KATE/ A2-3

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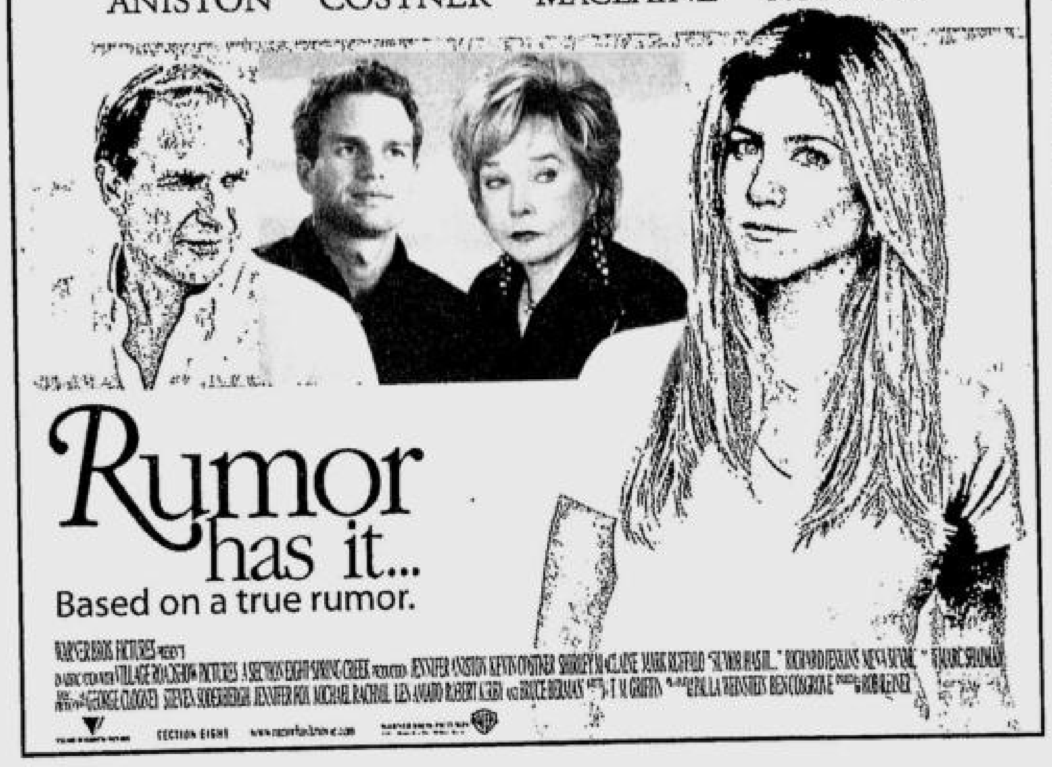

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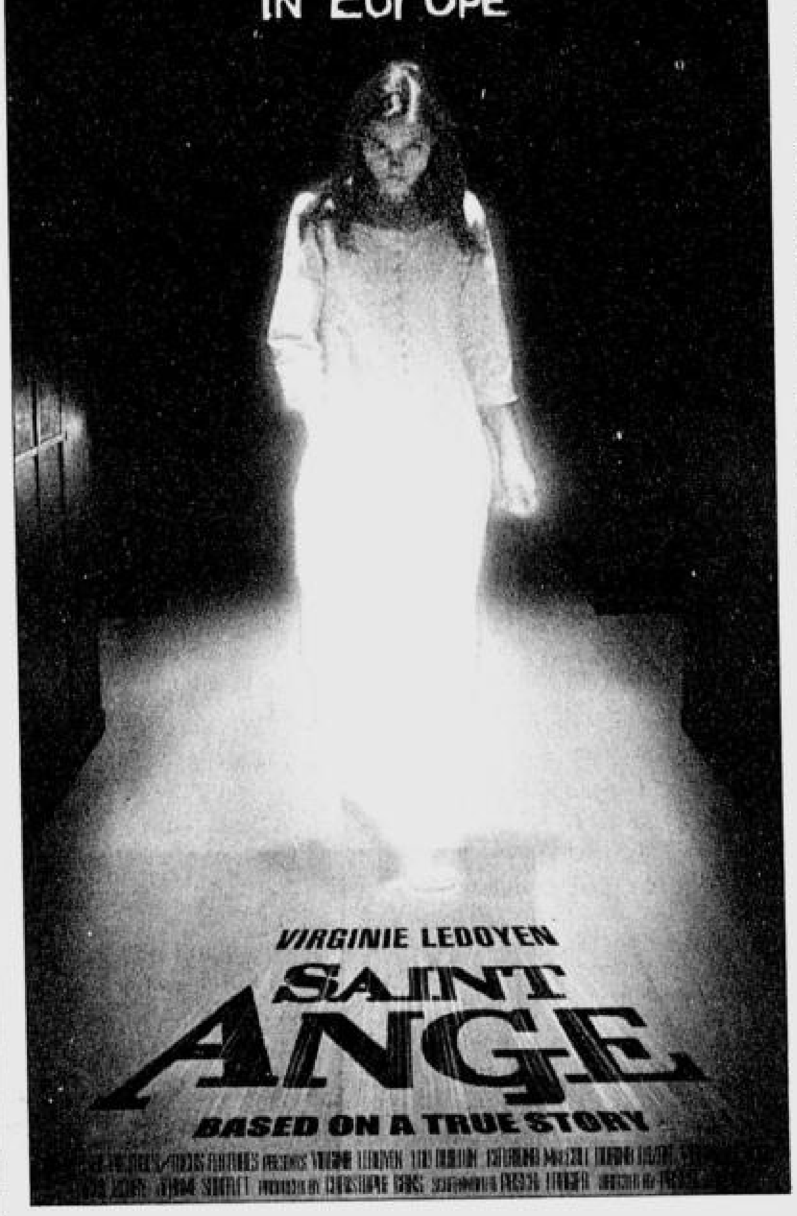

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Kate thinks Scott tied 'it' to his leg during their love scene

From page A3-2

Do you wish to live forever like vampires? What do you find sexy about them?

I'd say yes because I promised my daughter that I would [live forever] (laughs). What is sexy about vampires is that in this culture that we're in, it's about curbing your appetites, dieting, not smoking, not drinking and not sleeping with your best friend's husband and all that stuff, which supposedly I have done quite recently. Yeah, that was a story but there's something visceral and passionate about somebody who's completely out of control with his appetites and you just have to feed it. I think there's something libertine and sexy about that.

And how much of a libertine are you?

I am the mother of a seven-year-old. I'm usually at home with a cup of tea.

What is the best piece of advice that you ever got?

I don't remember too many people sitting me down and giving me advice [but] I do remember Emma Thompson saying, 'Just don't ever shit on anybody important (laughs)," so I haven't.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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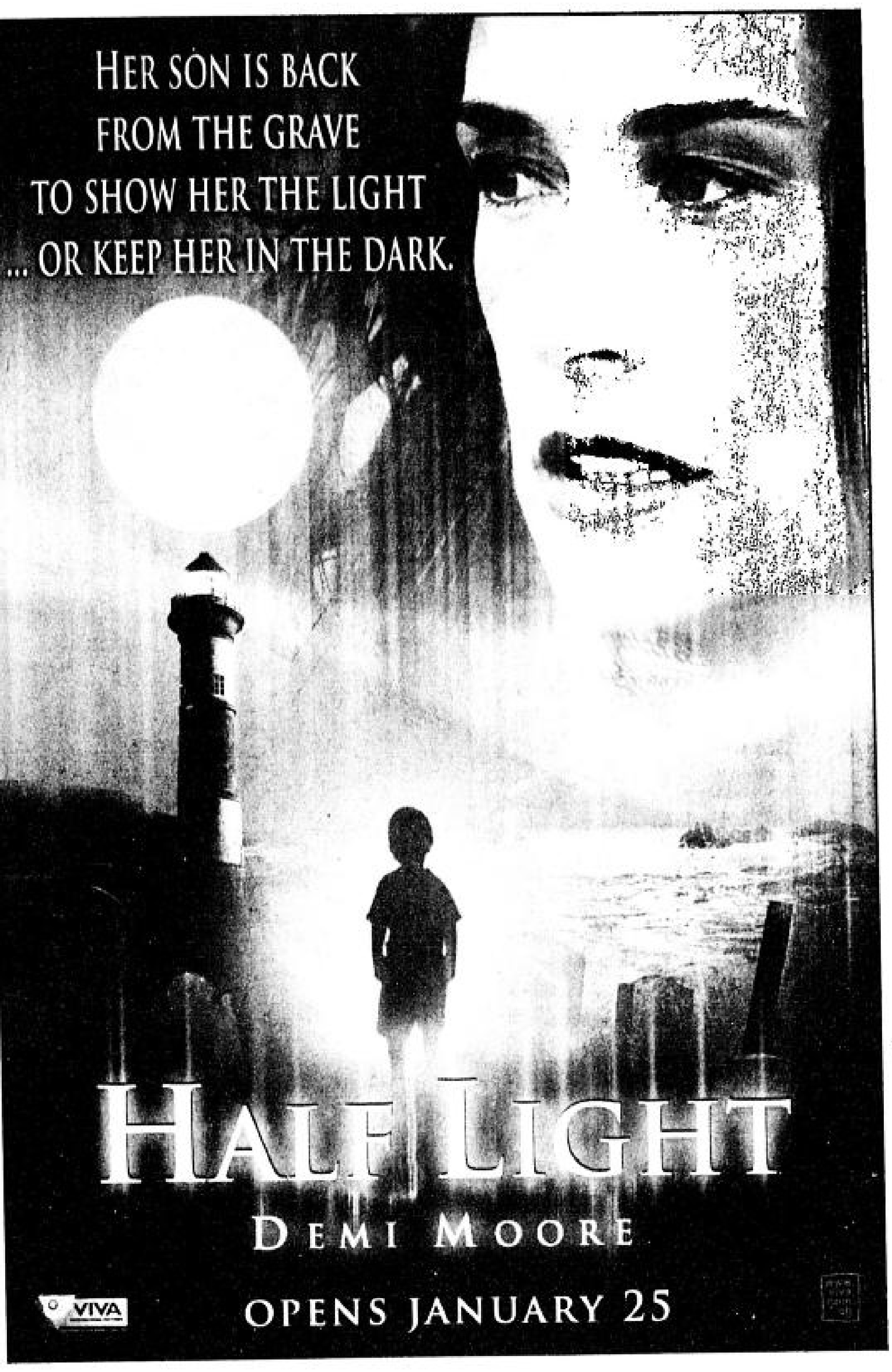
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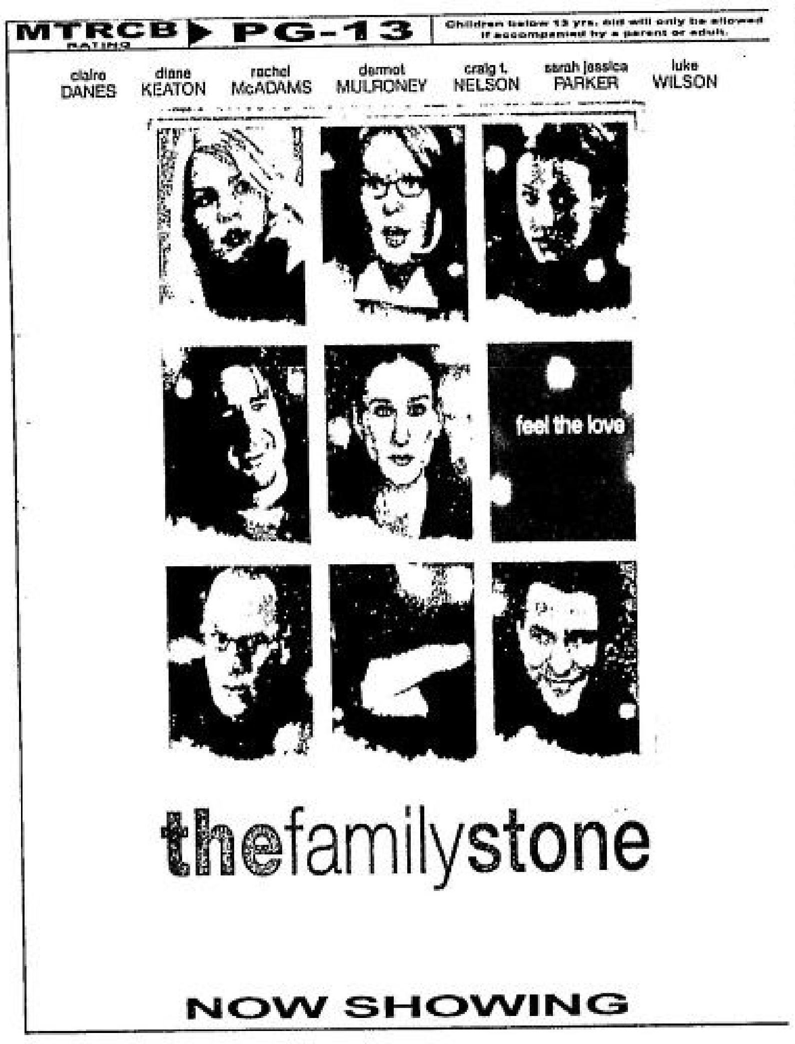
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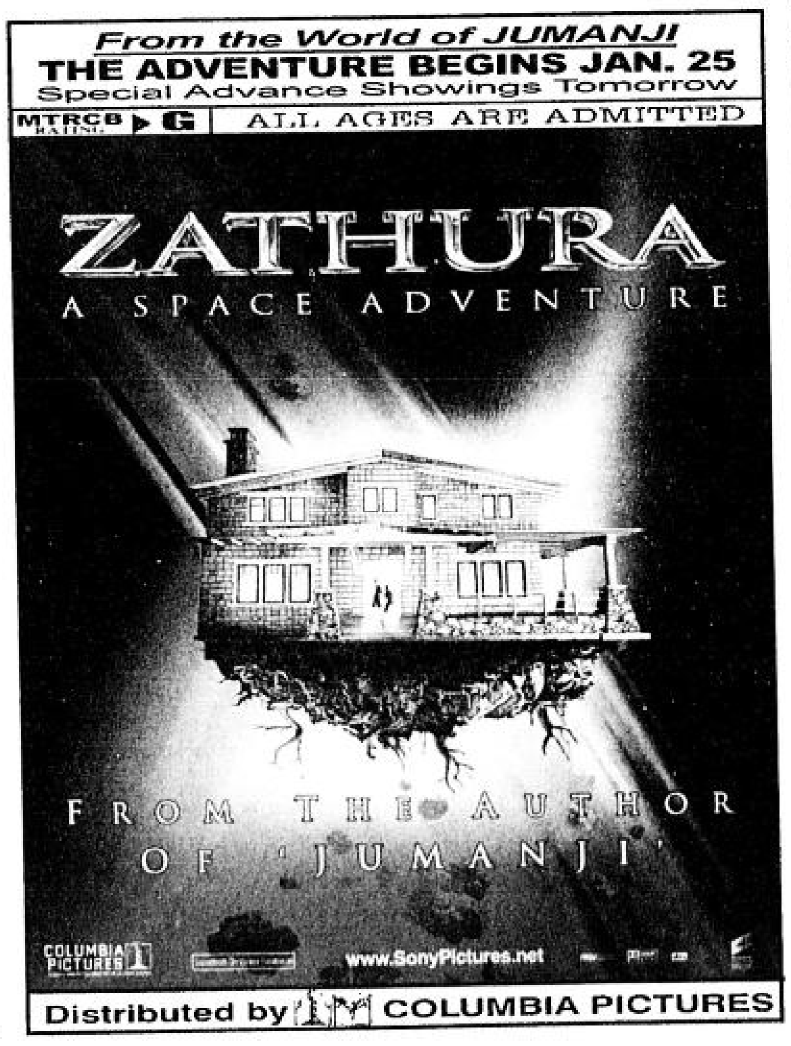
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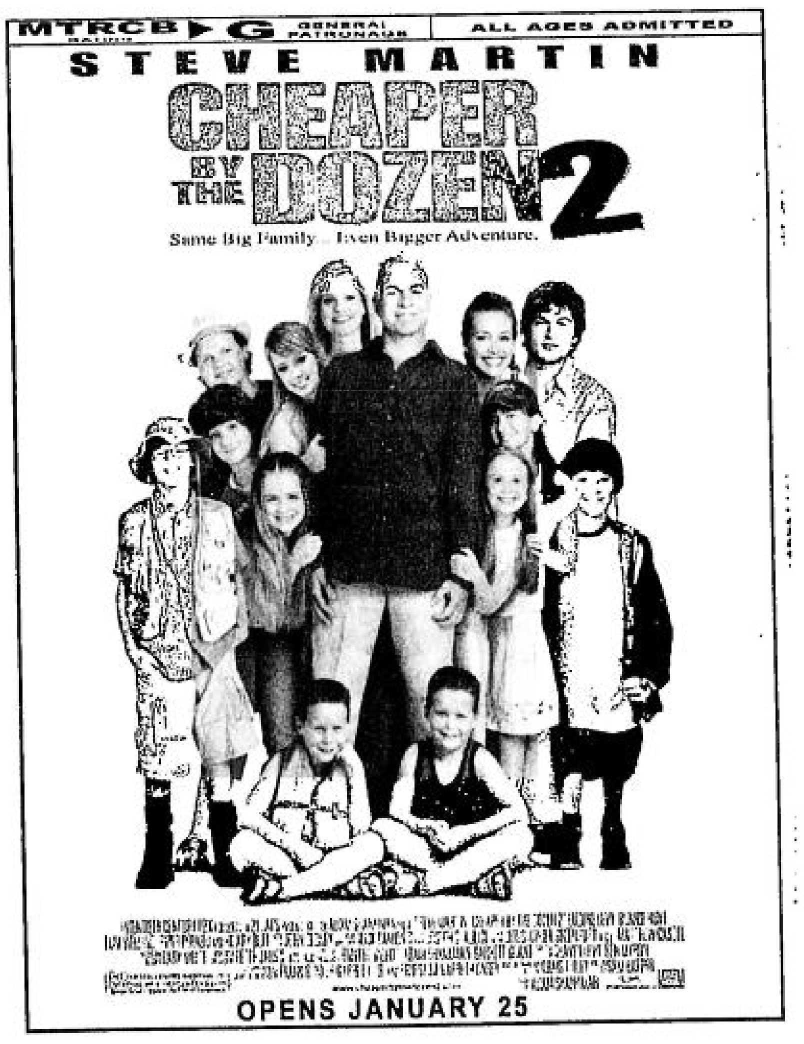
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THE MUSIC OF THE ERASERHEADS

PHOTO BY RODEL ROTONI

Coping with a reluctant icon

Ely Buendia did not say goodbye with 'Huling El Bimbo' and has more 'Ligaya' to spare

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor
Q&A by INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

OF THE FOUR EX-MEMBERS OF Eraserheads, it seems Ely Buendia is finding it most difficult to start anew.

Raimund Marasigan has been very prolific as an independent record producer and driving force of the bands Sandwich and Pedicab; Buddy Zabala has joined the Dawn; and Marcus Adoro is said to have finished two albums' worth of new music. What happened to Ely, once chief E-head?

His incarnation last year as leader of the Mongols was short-lived.

Now, having recorded a new CD with a group he calls Pupil, Buendia could be feeling antsy because simultaneous with its release is that of "Ultraelectromagneticjam," a tribute album featuring the current hottest artists and bands doing 19 songs from the E-heads' extensive body of work.

Given that both recordings are either released or distributed by the same record label (Sony BMG), does Buendia have reason to mope?

Fortunately, it seems the guy doesn't mind. In fact, he collaborated in and supported the tribute project.

Far cry

The songs in Pupil's album, "Beautiful Machines," are a far cry, storytelling-wise, from the style that Buendia perfected with the E-heads—apparently a deliberate move to find his identity with a new band.

Although Buendia is still credited with most of the songwriting, he lets his band mates sing their own compositions, remarkable of which are "Dulo ng Dila," by Dok Sergio (bass/vocals) and "Mary," co-written by Yan Yuzon (guitars/vocals). The fourth Pupil is Bogs Jugo.

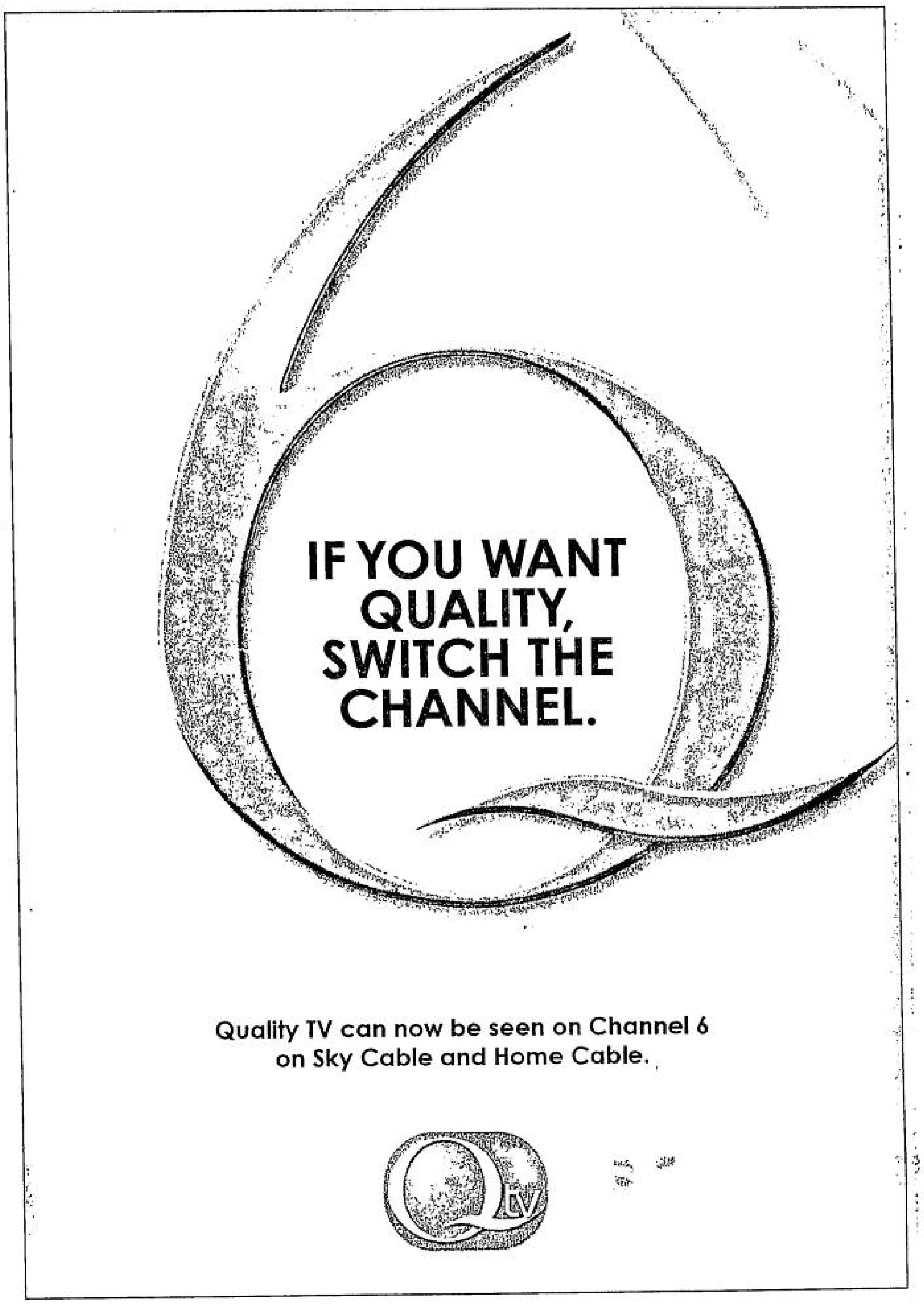
Buendia's music here is decidedly more sophisticated. Even so, he can't seem to totally get away from the melodic turns that took his old band to the pinnacle of success. As the name Pupil implies, Buendia lets his vision open up to interesting sonic structures.

Buendia's girlfriend, Pupil manager Diane Ventura, writes one song ("Nasaan Ka"), collaborates and sings in the title track. That should give clues to Buendia's present disposition, and in the cuts "Gamu-gamo," "Dianetic" and "Kalawakan," it becomes clear that his domestic life is inspiring enough for Ely, at 35, to go on being a musician on his own terms.

Not to say that he wasn't happy while making some of the finest tunes in contemporary Filipino music as an Eraserhead.

As a band that started out playing for kicks, the E-heads eventually set the tone for what Pinoy alternative music was in the 1990s—candid, imaginative, fun, irreverent and therefore relevant to youth concerns. Twelve years after, the music reverberates and goads a whole new generation of artists and bands (plus 1970s pop star Rico J. Puno

COPING/ A4-2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ELY, Bogs, Yan and Dok visit PDI.
RODEL ROTONI

Coping with . . .

From page A4-1

and Ely's Club Dredd days buddy FrancisM) to participate in "Ultraelectromagneticjam," the highlights of which include:

6Cyclemind reasserting the euphoric sense of freedom that "Alapaap" signifies; Paolo Santos enunciating the naughty wit between the lines of "Magasin"; South Border giving "With A Smile" a touch of soul; Radioactive Sago Project articulating the dizzying spin of success in "Alcohol"; Francis M (with Buendia on backup vocals) blasting into smithereens the boredom expressed in "Superproxy 2K6."

> 'Collectively, we're over a hundred years old'

But while Barbie Almalbis sounds too cutesy for "Overdrive" and the presence of Cueshe and Orange and Lemons somehow reaches saturation point, the rest—notably Kitchie Nadal who's caught giggling in "Ligaya"— breathe new life into songs that are considered pop classics.

A brilliant marketing coup for record producer Eric Perpetua of FM radio station Jam 88.3, "Ultraelectromagneticjam" could be the most coveted mother album this side of cover versions.

Pupil—Ely, Bogs, Yan and Dok—recently visited the INQUIRER office and sat down for a chat with the Entertainment staff.

We read that you're not happy with "Ultraelectromagneticjam."
Ely: *Sinabi ko ba 'yun*? It's quite good.

Do you have a favorite?
Ely: "Superproxy"

By Francis Magalona...
Yan: And Ely Buendia. Nag-tribute *sa sarili*. (Laughter.)

The scene is as bustling today as in the '90s. You started that with Eraserheads.
Ely: I don't want to take credit for that and I'm sure neither do the other E-heads.

Among the new ones, who do you think will be the next Eraserheads?
Ely: Not Pupil. *Malayo*.

How far are you from "Huling El Bimbo?"
Ely: I don't know how to answer that. *Iba ang* instincts *ng banda ko ngayon*.

Are you a perfect fit?
Yan: Yeah, we're soul mates. (Laughter.)

You used to be with which group?
Yan: The Mongols
Bogs: Daydream Cycle, along with Dok.
Dok: Teeth.

How old are you now?
Ely: I'm 35.
Dok: I'm turning 30.
Bogs: I'm 26
Yan: I'm 27. Collectively, we're over a hundred years old.

Do you still experiment?
Ely: Yes. *Dati, gagawa lang ako ng kanta tapos ipapasok sa* album. *Kung sino ang gumawa ng* song, he'll be the musical director. In this album, the songs are made by Pupil, produced by Pupil and Pat Tirano, our production engineer. This means everyone pitched in ideas. That to me is a new thing.

Where does making it big come in?
Ely: You mean making money? Everyone wants to make it big but, right now, I'm just happy that I have come up with another album.

Ely [because he was looking distracted], are you bored?
Ely: No. Do I look bored? Everybody says that. I guess I look bored all the time.

How does it feel to have created the soundtrack of a generation?
Ely: I feel like a jukebox (laughs). Seriously, *minsan* okay, *minsan naman* ... let's just stick to the "okay" part.

Why Pupil?
Ely: Pupil is that part of the eye where light passes through. We wanted a name that's technical, short and easy to remember.

After Mongols, did you consider...
Ely: Killing myself?

Who is your biggest fan?
Ely: My kid. He could sing most of Pupil's songs.
Bogs: My kid brother, Jonathan. *Kahit parati n'ya akong inaasar*, I know he loves me.
Yan: My bother (Yael Yuzon). I'm his biggest fan, too. He's the vocalist of Sponge Cola.

Have you read early reviews of "Beautiful Machines"? Some say the album has "good music and is artistic but lacks identity."
Ely: *Parang masakit 'yun, a.*

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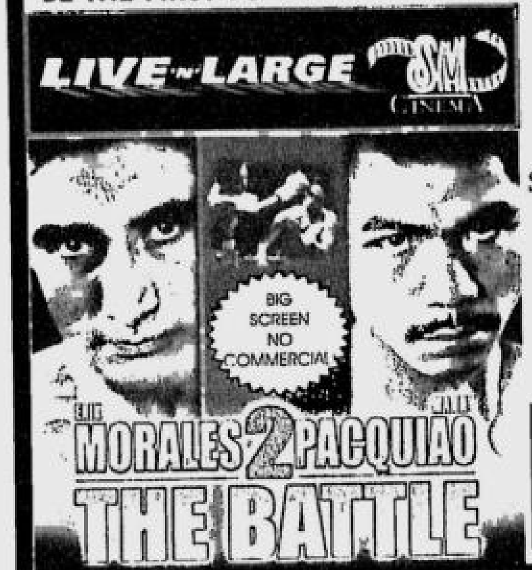

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10 ST. ANGE

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1 NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 KING KONG

SM VALENZUELA
1 NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 BLUE MOON
2 ST. ANGE
3 NARNIA
4 KING KONG
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7 NARNIA
8 EXODUS
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 FAMILY STONE
11 AKO LEGAL WIFE
12 RESERVE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA
5 EXODUS
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7 BLUE MOON
8 KING KONG
9 ST. ANGE
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 KING KONG
4 ST. ANGE
5 BLUE MOON
6 AKO LEGAL WIFE
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 NARNIA

SM CITY MANILA
1 KING KONG
2 NARNIA
3 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
4 EXODUS
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
6 NARNIA
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 FAMILY STONE
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 AKO LEGAL WIFE
11 BLUE MOON
12 ST. ANGE

SM SAN LAZARO
1 NARNIA
2 FAMILY STONE
3 KING KONG
4 BLUE MOON
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 NARNIA
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 BLUE MOON
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 NARNIA
2 KING KONG
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM MOLINO
1 NARNIA
2 NARNIA
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BACOOR
1 ST. ANGE
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 KING KONG
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 BLUE MOON
8 EXODUS

SM CITY MARILAO
1 NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 KING KONG

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 NARNIA
2 EXODUS
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 BLUE MOOON
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 EXODUS

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SM CITY CEBU
1 KING KONG
2 NARNIA
3 BLUE MOON
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 EXODUS
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 NARNIA

SM CITY ILOILO
1 EXODUS
2 BLUE MOON
3 NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 NARNIA
6 KING KONG
7 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
8 AKO LEGAL WIFE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 NARNIA
2 KING KONG
3 AKO LEGAL WIFE
4 EXODUS
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 NARNIA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NARNIA
2 THE FOG
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA

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2	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30	GP
3	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	11:00, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:00	GP
4	FAMILY STONE	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13

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DON'T GIVE UP ON US PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	KING KONG PG13 11:00,2:40,6:20,10:00	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10

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② CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB GP
11 00, 1 50, 4 40, 7 30, 10 20 LMF
③ FAMILY STONE MTRCB PG-13
12 00, 2.30, 5 00, 7:30, 10:00
④ KING KONG MTRCB PG-13
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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE'S A LOT OF TALK THESE DAYS about child-friendly television, and how important it is that TV inculcates positive values in young viewers.

To underscore the importance of this thrust, the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television has been giving out annual Anak TV Seal citations to shows that are good for family viewing.

On the other hand—and quite ironically—some shows featuring children refuse to see the light in this regard, and project their young talents in negative ways that send out the wrong messages for children who watch them.

On "Going Bulilit," for instance, the kiddie talents are often made to portray pint-sized adults involved in courtship, flirting or husband-wife situations.

The people behind the show must think that there's nothing wrong with it, because "it's just a comedy," and thus should not be taken seriously.

Besides, don't some Filipino parents love to dress their kids up like little adults, and teach them to do "naughty" dances and sing songs about passionate love?

It's all in good, clean fun, right? Alas, some child psychologists aren't so sure, and warn against such practices, because it shortens the time kids need to be kids. It also exposes them to more mature areas of feeling and behavior that they're too psychologically unformed and vulnerable to adequately cope with.

The same problem, this time in the field of music, can be found festering in kiddie singing contests on TV, where the young contestants are made to choose songs with mature lyrics, dress up like pint-sized adults, wear heavy makeup and dangling earrings, etc.

Real culprits

The people behind those shows disclaim responsibility for those inappropriate excess and point to the kids' parents as the real culprits. But TV people have command responsibility over the shows they produce, so they're similarly liable.

We also wish that the jurors assigned to pick the winners of those kiddie singing contests would exercise their prerogatives more responsibly.

If they agree that children shouldn't be made to perform in an inappropriately grown-up manner, they should lay down criteria to that effect, and penalize young contestants who don't go by them.

In other words, if a child singer sings a song with mature lyrics and is dolled up to look like a small adult, don't make that contestant win.

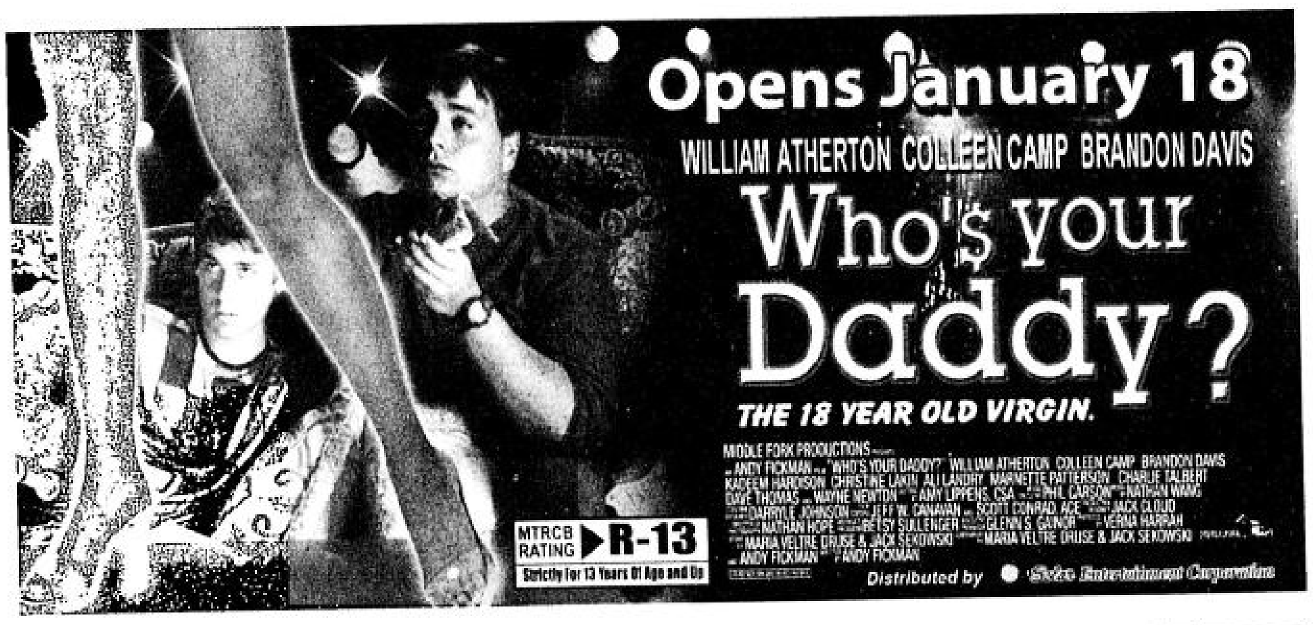
If judges stick to their guns this way, you can bet that parents of young singers will "suddenly" see the light, and choose the proper songs and performance styles for their children.

We should all address this problem, because the children potentially at risk here aren't only the kiddie singing contestants, but all those young viewers out there, who could be getting lyric and behavior inputs too mature for them to empathetically handle.

Jurors of talent shows could help make parents see the light

Marri Nallos

EVERY Thursday this month, **Marri Nallos** sings at The Lounge of Hyatt Marina Casino Hotel in Manila. Every Saturday, Marri is also the featured singer at the Calesa Bar of Hyatt Regency Hotel, where she started her lounge acts.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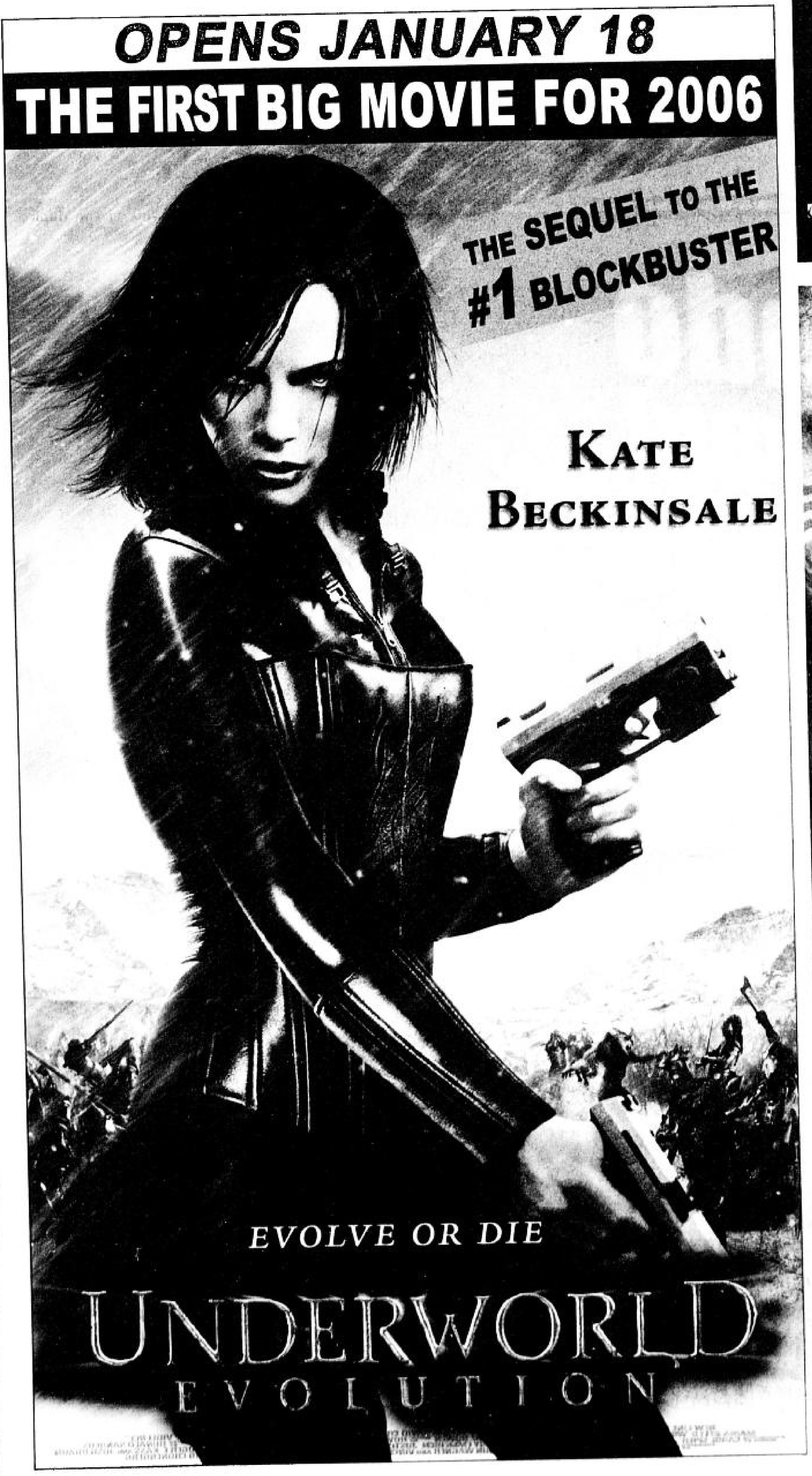
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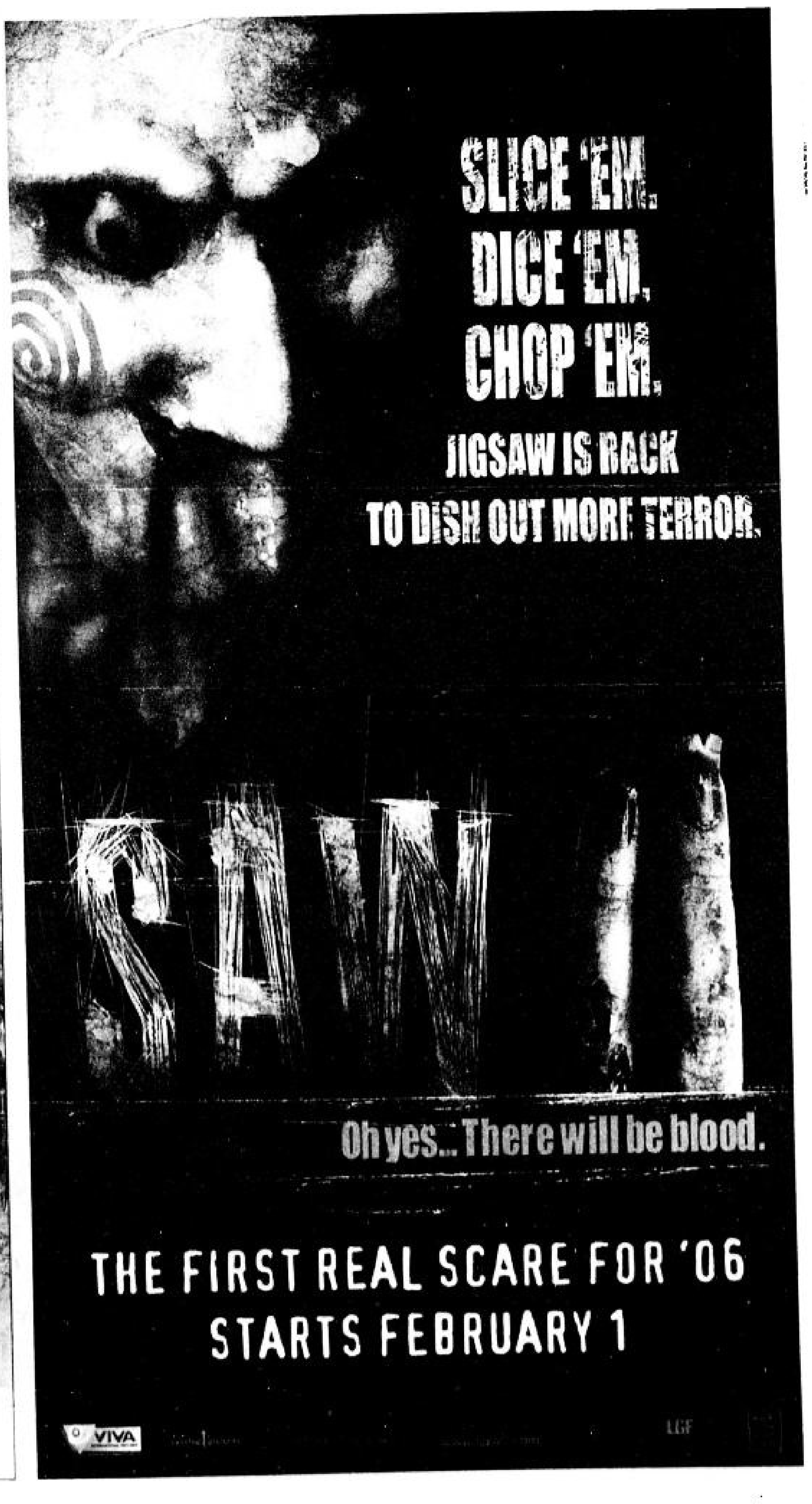
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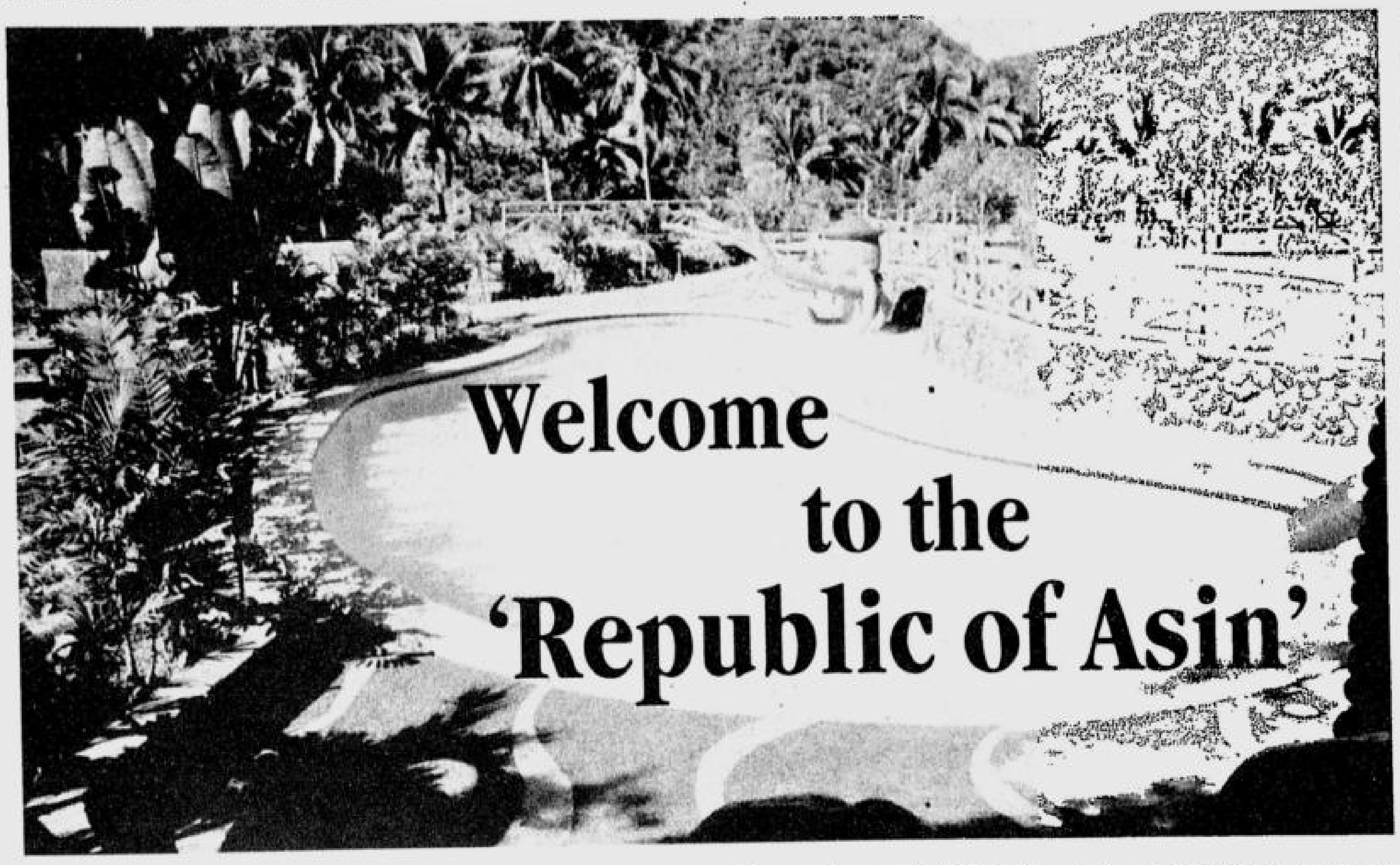
Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**



Welcome to the 'Republic of Asin'

ASIN THEME PARK. Investors have poured in P150 million to build five resorts in Asin, under the government's radar. The latest resort is called Palm Grove, owned by Ibaloi Greg Loy, and features theme park-like swimming pools. Loy says resorts expect their windfall to come by 2012. VINCENT CABREZA

NEW BRIDGE, OLD WORRIES. The government started to build a new bridge to improve the road to Asin, but residents are furious because it will isolate them for four months during peak tourist season. VINCENT CABREZA

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, BENGUET—When investors poured in P150 million into a little-known *sitio* (sub village) off the back roads of Baguio City and this town, no one should begrudge residents there who welcomed them to the "Republic of Asin."

That was the name coined for sitio Asin in Barangay Nangasilan here by Baguio-based reporters in the 1970s, who were furious at government's neglect of the road that led to its soothing hot springs.

Few tourists even know of Asin, which is located farther down the more popular woodcarvers' village on Asin Road. But Baguio residents have made Asin their weekend hideaway for 40 years now.

Asin's story is intertwined with the creation of the city in 1909 by the American colonial government, says Roger Sinot, who manages a resort that is partly owned by the city government.

Eusebius James Halsema, Baguio's first mayor, built the first mini-hydroelectric plant there with the help of the late Juan Resurreccion, a Baguio resident who fabricated the metal parts by hand.

The Baguio government later bought 4,000 square meters of Asin property where it built the "Asin Hot Springs Swimming Pools," which Sinot now administers.

Because of the success of the city government-owned pools, Asin now boasts of five resorts, bringing P25 million each year to this small community.

But neither the city government nor the Benguet government had an idea of how well Asin's resort industry thrived until Benguet set out to isolate the sitio for four months to build a steel bridge there.

Gov. Borromeo Melchor authorized the closure of an old steel bridge that connects Baguio to its Asin property on Jan. 26, giving engineers until April to finish a more modern bridge.

The closure order led to protests.

But Greg Loy, owner and manager of the P70-million Palm Grove Resort which opened three months ago, says the protests led to a new organization that was formed around building a genuine Asin tourism program aimed at marketing Asin to a wider audience.

Marissa Sulipan, chair of Nangalisan's tourism council, announced a series of activities for Asin's weekend trekkers, including Asin's first mountain bike race on April 8.

Purificacion Molintas, Cordillera director of the Department of Tourism, now classifies the Baguio pools, Palm Grove, Riverview Park and Swimming Pool, Bosaing's Swimming Pool and the Sulphuric Swimming

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Altis 1.6 E M/T	765,000	100,000	56,834	39,137	31,201	22,265	17,966	15,506
Altis 1.6 J M/T	708,000	100,000	51,702	35,604	28,389	20,258	16,347	14,106
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Innova 2.5 E M/T	885,000	100,000	68,082	46,883	37,360	26,660	21,512	18,575
Innova 2.5 J M/T	798,000	100,000	60,250	41,490	33,069	23,598	19,041	16,439
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Going for the best Asean tourist packages

PARTICIPANTS to the Asean Tourism Forum will get a chance to go to Samal Island.

By Germelina Lacorte
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—BUYERS AND wholesalers from around the world are scrambling over each other to get their hands onto the best package deal that Asean tourism players are cooking up for the Asean Tourism Forum here.

Art Boncato, chair of the Davao Tourism Association, says that as early as October last year, the ATF website (www.atfdavao.com) had to close registration because the influx of buyers that showed interest in joining the event had exceeded targets.

Close to 700 buyers from all over the world signed up for the ATF. It kicked off last Jan. 13 and will run until the 21st.

It features as main event the Travel Exchange (Travex), a trade-only mart designed for suppliers of Asean travel products to meet selected buyers from around the world through scheduled appointments.

Many consider the Travex as an ideal forum for buyers to gather the latest information on Asean tourism products and services and to set up new business contacts and learn about tourism trends in the region, said Boncato.

He says Europeans outnumbered other foreign buyers, confirming a marked resurgence of interest among European countries, particularly Germany on Asean destination like Davao.

Hotels, airlines and resorts will be up against each other's throats in offering the best tour packages to prospective buyers.

Of the 458 booths for the Travex, 133 were booked by Thailand, 100 by Malaysia, 67 by Indonesia, 64 by Singapore, and 37 by the Philippines.

"They will compete for the best rates and for the best tour packages they can get," says Boncato, who is also the sales and marketing director of the Marco Polo Hotel Davao.

Despite the lesser number of booths booked by the Philippines during the Travex event, Davao tourism players have the advantage because they can show the buyers right here what their products are, says Boncato.

Among the local hotels that registered as sellers are the Marco Polo Hotel, Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao and the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, the Apo View Hotel in Davao, the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel-Cebu, the Asian Spirit, Cebu Pacific and Philippine Airlines.

But much of what is going to happen will be hidden from public view as the Travex, where the negotiations between buyers and sellers take place, will be restricted to the parties involved.

Although the 3,000 foreign visitors that are coming here will momentarily boost the region's half a million tourist arrivals a year, Boncato says the Davao tourism industry is looking forward to the long term effects of the event as the word spreads around about Davao city as a tourism destination.

Major hotels and resorts, from the Malagos Garden Resort and the Eden Nature Park in the hilly side of Calinan and Toril down to the first class Waterfront Hotel in Sasa are sprucing up for the big event.

"We are hoping for the same miracle that had placed Cebu in the tourism map of the world," says Susan Palad, head of the ATF secretariat.

Travex, which is ATF's main feature, will take place at the NCCC mall exhibition center, the largest of its kind in Davao city.

This southern city will present top tourism resorts in one "highland to island" tourism package, while the neighboring Island Garden City of Samal will allow foreign guests to experience community-based tourism in the five tourism packages it has prepared. They will experience a rare treat of riding the "habal-habal," a motorcycle which has become a common mode of transportation in remote areas of the Philippines.

The Samal tour that will take the foreign guests to Samal island's Haguimitan waterfalls will also feature a ride on a carabao cart and a spa massage by local hilots, according to Samal city administrator Cleto Gales Jr.

Boncato says Internet facilities and wi-fi capability have already been installed in all of the 14 official participating hotels and the NCCC mall.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano says the hosting of the ATF will serve as a "tipping point" in erasing the stigma of the 2003 twin Davao bombings that had stained Davao's image as a prime destination among travelers around the world.

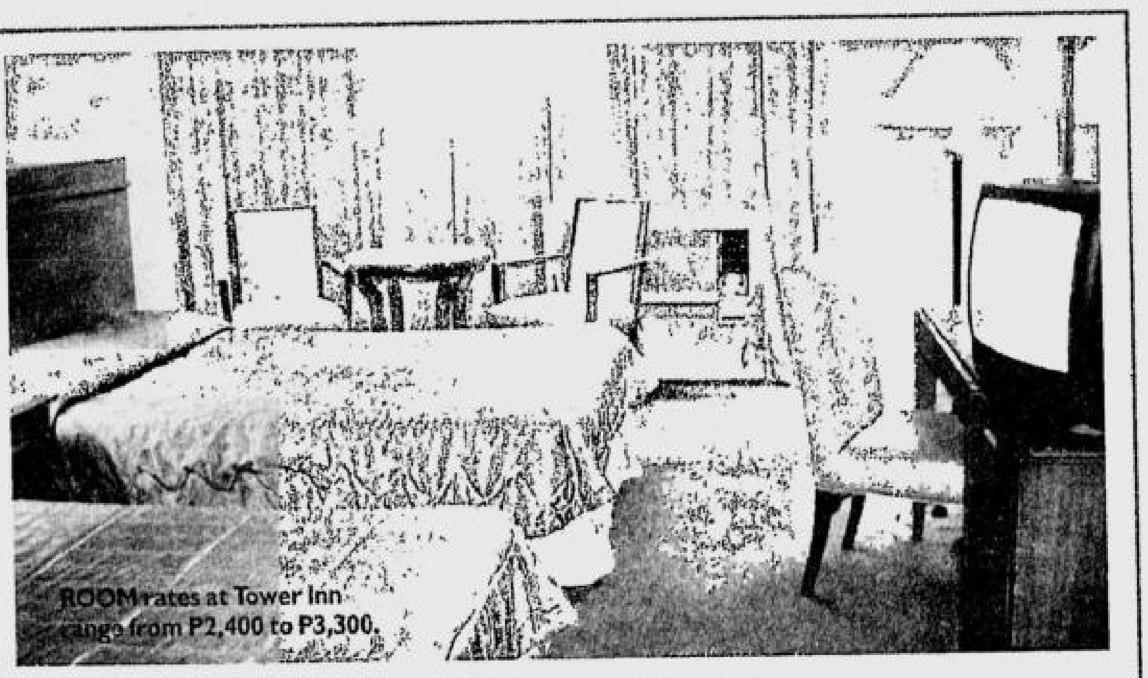
Davao will serve as the showwindow for the rest of Mindanao, which is being presented as the country's lead tourism package in the ATF, according to Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab.

Palabyab said Mindanao is being developed as a banner tourism destination not only in the East Asean Growth Area (Eaga), composed of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (BIMP), but also in the entire Asean region.

The Mindanao tourism menu covers various tourism products and destinations and all the development projects in the six regions of the island.

The ATF is an effort among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian to promote the region as one tourist destination. It involves all tourism industry sectors in the 10 Asean countries of the Philippines, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore.

Other events lined up for the nine-day gathering include the Asean joint tourism marketing meeting, which will tackle areas of cooperation in promoting the region's tourist attractions, facilities and investments. It also includes meetings among the Asean communications team for tourism, the Asean ministers of tourism, and the national tourism organizations and the Asean travel trade associations, among others.



ROOM rates at Tower Inn range from P2,400 to P3,300.

Foreign visitors perk up hotel sector

THE DEPARTMENT OF Tourism (DOT) is optimistic it will surpass the tourist arrivals target of 2.6 million visitors. The DOT Statistics Division has released its latest official data on tourist arrivals at 2.11 million—just for the first ten months of the year, registering a growth of 13.6 percent as compared to 2004 figures.

"We are indeed close to achieving our goal for 2005. Given the latest facts on tourism arrivals, there is definitely no doubt that we will go beyond our 2.6 million target, especially with the peak seasons November and December still unaccounted for" said Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, in a news statement recently.

For the month of October 2005 alone, a growth of 17.7 percent to 206, 792 from 2004's 175,644 was registered. Korea, United States, and Japan are the top tourist markets to look out for. Korea, recorded a 42.8 percent increase, after providing 42,044 visitors in 2005 from 29,445 in 2004. American guest arrivals likewise escalated from last 2004's 36,232 to 2005's 39,781. Japan's figures also grew to 32,748 as compared to its 28,646,a 14.3 percent increase, according to statistics from the DOT.

The tourism boom is partially credited to the government's key infrastructure projects, local carriers' expansion of their international flights, and the rise in the number of budget carriers plying leisure and business travelers to the country. In addition, the local air carriers are adding direct international flights to cities outside Manila.

In 2004, there was a 35 percent increase from the number of visitors received in 2003. Approximately eight percent of the visitors were Filipinos permanently residing abroad or *balikbayans*. Even locals are joining in the tourist fray as the government's emphasis on holiday economics spurred economic growth in sub-industries like hotels, restaurants and recreation sectors.

Rebounding from a challenging year in 2003, average occupancy rates of hotels are expected to reach between 60 and 70 percent in Metro Manila and above 50 percent in other regions in 2004. This is a significant improvement as Metro Manila hotels posted less than 60 percent average occupancy in 2003, while some regions in the country had less than 40 percent average occupancy in 2003.

Cashing in on the tourism boom are entrepreneurs like the Torres family who decided to use their idle property in Makati to good use. "It took years to plan out the perspective of the hotels before my parents decided to convert the 800 sq.m. lot to a business hotel," says Willie Torres, General Manager, Tower Inn.

In marketing Tower Inn, the family decided to niche with foreign and local business travelers. Tower Inn's location along the Pasay Road, is a prime location. Guests are not too far away from the Makati's Central Business District and its watering holes and malls.

To satiate weary guests, the hotel's 72-seater restaurant called Nick's Cafe, offers daily authentic Filipino buffet, a "merienda" (snacking) buffet on Saturdays. Price points were taken into consideration for guests on a budget or limited expense accounts. "... Outsiders and businessmen flock (in) for the affordable Filipino buffet," adds Nicky Torres, Food and Beverage director of the hotel.

There are 48 guest rooms with room rates ranging from P2,400 to P3,300. A business center keeps guests connected 24/7 with its facsimile, photocopying, secretarial and Internet services.

Tower Inn is undergoing a two-phased facelift. Exterior painting is done and room renovations are in the pipeline.

Tower Inn has a branch in Davao City. Its e-mail is towerinn@mozcom.com.

DOT eyes vast Japanese women travelers' market

THE DEPARTMENT OF Tourism (DOT) is building on the gains of its promotional blitz in Japan, this time by zeroing in on the vast female segment of the 17.4-million Japanese outbound market.

"For 2006, the DOT is focusing its 'Koko Doko' marketing campaign on Japan's highly-empowered female segment, which accounts for a huge chunk of Japanese outbound travelers," said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano, the proponent of the government's market-specific "One-Country Approach" in tourism marketing.

"This strategy dubbed "The Philippines—Wellness from the Inside Out" adds a new dimension to Koko Doko's "Premium Resort Islands Philippines" campaign, which portrays the archipelago as Japan's nearest tropical paradise," Durano explained.

"This time, however, the DOT is putting a broader but detailed meaning to that paradise through a more experiential brand imagery that caters to the priorities of Japanese women such as health, beauty, and mind. The DOT has also tapped a celebrity as brand endorser, campaign spokesperson, and ambassador of goodwill," Durano pointed out.

Thus, the Wellness from the Inside Out will even reinforce the previous branding of the Philippines as Premium Resort Islands by fashioning out a top-of-mind positioning of the country as the paradise that has it all.

"Constituting that creative concept are highly impressive messages and images of the Philippines' abundant nature, healing atmosphere, warm human bonds, delicious cuisine of healthy ingredients, esthetic salons and spas, one-stop shops and sprawling malls, and everything a Japanese woman needs to pamper her femininity," said DOT's Team Japan Head Rosvi C. Gaetos.

"The objective is to make the Japanese women rise to the challenge of coming to the Philippines to savor all those being enjoyed by their Filipino counterparts and other foreign visitors," Gaetos added.

Presented in various visuals and panoramic expressions, the concept will have different themes, each featuring unique Philippine places and goods of special interest to Japanese women.

The campaign will also ride on the tide of the growing popularity of coconut oil, the traditional Filipino therapeutic massage known as "hilot", the relaxing natural essences and aromatherapy, exotic native products, and local delicacies like halo-halo, which have become bestsellers in Japan during the recent World Expo 2005 in Aichi.

The success of DOT's marketing campaign in Japan brought in 36,589 Japanese tourists last September to top the country's foreign arrivals in that month.

That number surpassed the 30,481 arrivals from Korea and the 30,040 from the United States, and helped push the January-September total to 1,907,405 for a 13.1 percent increase over the 1,685,853 posted in the same period last year.

DOT statistics shows that Japan is the Philippines' second-largest export and tourist market, accounting for an average of 19 to 21 percent of the country's total arrivals over the past 10 years.

Japan is also the Philippines' second largest investor and the leading source of official development assistance.

Welcome to the 'Republic ...

From page B1

Pools owned by judicial clerk Ronny Bacolod as Benguet's "wellness cluster" because of a local massage expert who services all these facilities.

Sulipan says arrangements have also been made with Baguio's pony boys, who rent out their horses to the more adventurous tourists.

Their deal offers rental packages that allow tourists to travel on horseback to Asin's hot springs, instead of using jeepneys servicing the village.

Close to 50 jeepneys ply this route, but no rides are available after 4 p.m. on weekdays and after 5 p.m. on weekends. Travel to the city takes from 20 to 45 minutes.

To some degree, the jeepney drivers' refusal to budge from this service schedule indicates some community reservations about what Asin will turn into once its marketing proves successful, Sulipan says.

"We have not done any surveys. We really don't know how people feel. Everyone here is used to tourists flocking to the Asin Hot Springs Swimming Pools. During the last Christmas holiday, 3,000 people swam the river and the pools each day. We had twice that number years ago before [the 1990 Luzon] earthquake that destroyed Baguio," she says.

The trip through the craggy, muddy Asin Road meant passing through two small tunnels that were carved through the mountains. The tunnels still exist although the first now straddles a concrete road stretch of Asin Road.

Both tunnels were part of an old locomotive line of the defunct Philippine Railway Co. that connects Benguet to Tubao, La Union.

However, Sulipan says the sitio now has to deal with "modern problems" to generate new tourist traffic to Asin.

Weekly community meetings throw one idea after another about creating new parking spaces for visiting motorists, issues about affordable food supplies and taxes, she says.

Residents own rice and vegetable farms but grocery items are still bought from Baguio, says Sulipan.

Loy says the newly organized resort association here has offered to share parking spaces for the meantime because the industry still deals with habitual Baguio trekkers.

Loan program to buy licensed software out

IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT's aggressive campaign against software piracy, broadband leader PLDT myDSL fosters the use of legal software by making licenses more affordable through the ePLDT Microsoft License Financing Program.

Internet café owners who subscribe to PLDT myDSL Business packages will be able to avail of Microsoft original equipment manufacturer (OEM) licenses in affordable packages and access to financing options with Banco de Oro (BDO).

"The ePLDT Microsoft License Financing Program answers the need of entrepreneurs embarking on their own I-café business. It is also an opportunity for existing net cafés to maximize the numerous technical and operational benefits through the use of legitimate copies of Microsoft licenses." said Suzy Roxas, PLDT Manager for SME Markets.

In the Philippines, piracy has become so widespread that a study by International Data Corp. (IDC) reveals 71 percent of computers in the country use pirated software, amounting to P3.7 billion in losses for the local software industry.

This prompted a nationwide crackdown on pirated software by the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, an enforcement group spearheaded by the Business Software Alliance (BSA) in partnership with the Optical Media Board (OMB), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Philippine National Police (PNP).

The massive campaign which was implemented on Sept. 16, 2005 after a month-long warning shook the local Internet café industry and various businesses after the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team confiscated over P19 million worth of illegal software both from computers loaded with unlicensed software and pirated CDs. There have also been eight successful raids scattered across the country, the most recent of which resulted in P10 million worth of confiscated computers from various Internet cafés in Metro Manila.

I-cafés subscribing to PLDT myDSL business packages can now purchase their Microsoft OEM licenses through cash or loan with partner bank BDO at 1.3 percent monthly interest, payable at 6 months to 36 months. To qualify, applicants must be self-employed with an annual gross income of P400,000. Their Internet café enterprise should be in operation for at least two years. They must have at least one PLDT landline in either residence or place of work and must submit their latest financial statements for the past two years or bank statements for the last six months.

Upon approval of loan and purchase of licenses, ePLDT financing participants are automatically enrolled in Get Loaded, a profit generating service that allows net café owners to purchase online game pins and airtime loads easily online.

ePLDT, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

For more information, call ePLDT at 855-0000.

I-CAFÉS subscribing to PLDT myDSL business packages can now purchase their Microsoft OEM licenses through cash or loan with partner bank BDO.

Open a bank account, get a chance to win a trip

YOU HAVE BARELY A MONTH TO GO before you win that dream overseas trip. On Feb. 1, 2006, East West Bank awards the first winners of its "East West Getaways" promo.

At stake are trips for four to Los Angeles, California; Hong Kong; Bangkok, Thailand; or to Miniloc Island Resort in El Nido, Palawan.

All trips are inclusive of roundtrip air and land transfers, hotel accommodations, and daily breakfast.

To qualify for the raffle, you have to go to an EWB Personalized Banking Center and open any of these accounts—Regular Checking, Passbook/ATM/Statement Savings, BizCheque, Savings Maximizer, Infinity Savings and Infinity Checking. You earn a raffle entry to the promo for every P2,000 average collected daily balance.

If you are an existing EWB depositor, you can also join the promo. Just refer a new client to the bank and get 20 raffle entries for every successful referral or for every new client that opens an account with the bank.

In Addition To The Raffle Entries, Ewb Depositors Get Instant Cash Rewards For Every Successful Account Referral Based On The Initial Casa Deposit.

For initial deposits of P10,000 to P100,000, the referring client gets P100 cash. For initial deposits above P100,000, the referring client gets a P500 cash credit of gift certificates worth P500 at Suriya Spa, Urban Spa, Tips 'n' Toes or Bruno's.

The second draw takes place on Aug. 1, 2006 where depositors may win trips for four to Orlando, Florida; Gold Cost, Australia; Beijing/Shanghai, China; or to Lagen Island Resort El Nido, Palawan.

All trips are also inclusive of roundtrip air and land transfers, hotel accommodations and daily breakfast.

For more inquiries on the "East West Getaways," log on to www.eastwestbanker.com or call East West Bank's Customer Service Hotline at 887-17 or toll-free 1-800-10-8-ACCESS (1-800-10-8222377) for provincial areas.

Victory Liner turns 60

VICTORY LINER Inc. (VLI) recently celebrated six decades of bringing passengers safely and comfortably to their destinations. VLI's board members, executives, employees, suppliers and guests gathered to toast the company in an elegant dinner party recently held at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

Well-wishers were welcomed by Victory Liner Inc. Chair Gerarda Hernandez-Villa. In her speech, she noted that beyond managing VLI as a bus firm, the first generation Hernandezes cultivated a sense of family within the company, and served as parents to the employees for more than half a century. Valued partners were honored with loyalty awards after VLI President and General Manager Johnny Hernandez gave a talk.

Victory Liner was the first bus company to install televisions on board, and is the only bus firm to accept credit card payments. To mark its 60th year in a grand way, VLI commissioned the building of the "Centennial Airport" in Baguio City, a passenger center patterned after the Grand Central Terminal and the Port Authority in New York. Another innovation is the deluxe bus with comfort room facilities for those who prefer to travel to Baguio non-stop.

Victory has a fleet of 720 buses 24 hours in 16 terminals across Luzon.

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February 18, 2006*
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March 18, 2006*
April 8, 2006
April 22, 2006*
*Nationwide Exam

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VP for Administration
University of the Cordilleras
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2600 Baguio City
Tel. No.: (074) 442 2564/442 3316
Fax No.: (074) 442 6268
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CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Ms Fiordeliza A. Velez
Testing Officer
Xavier Univ. – Ateneo de Cagayan
Cagayan de Oro City
Telefax No.: (08822) 858 3116 loc. 2064
(08822) 723 116 loc. 2054
Mobile: 0920 913 3135
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CEBU CITY
Mrs. Remedios A. Baculao
Psychometrician, Testing Center
University of San Carlos
P. del Rosario St., Cebu City 6000
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DAVAO CITY
Ms. Paulita C. Sorongon
Guidance Counselor
Ateneo de Davao University
Jacinto St., Davao City
Tel. No.: (082) 221 2411 loc. 8309
Telefax No.: (082) 221 2411 loc. 8308
E-mail: sorongon@magisx.addu.edu.ph

DUMAGUETE CITY
Prof. Violeta H. Toves
Psychometrician
Silliman University
Dumaguete City
Tel. No.: (035) 422 6002 loc. 337
Fax No.: (035) 422 6002 loc. 330
Email: spo@su.edu.ph

ILOILO CITY
Dr. Fely David
Dean, Graduate School
Central Philippine University
Iloilo City
Telefax No.: (033) 329 0418
Mobile: 0917 622 3844
Email: fpd_grad@cpu.edu.ph

LEGASPI CITY
Mr Carlos Ante
Special Assistant
Graduate School
Of Business Management
Divine Word College Of Legaspi
Legaspi City
Tel. No.: (052) 8204128 loc. 30
Fax No.: (052) 480 2146
E-mail: chitante@yahoo.com

NAGA CITY
Ms. Maria Regina Pamela Y. Rosales
Director/Psychometrician,
Institutional Testing Center
Ateneo de Naga University
Ateneo Avenue, Naga City
Tel. No.: (054) 472 2368 loc. 2315
Mobile: 0920 913 4229
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TAGBILARAN CITY
Dr Princesita A. Buma-at
Guidance Director
Holy Name University
Cor. Lesage and Gallares St.,
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Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on 31 January 2006.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Norte
CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Reference/Solicitation No. ___________

The Local Government of Tagum City thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of:

1. ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW MIDI BUS, 37 SEATERS 2X3 INDIVIDUAL BACKREST WITH LEATHERATE UPHOLSTERY, FULLY AIRCONDITIONED 4X2-6WHEELERS WITH COMPLETE TOOLS/TIRE WRENCH AND HYDRAULIC JACK (20 TONS CAPACITY) AND ONE (1) SPARE TIRE.

The approved budget is **FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P4,200,000.00)** chargeable against LGU Development Loan.

Calendar of Activities:

Particulars	*Date/Time*	*Venue*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	: January 30, 2006	BAC Secretariat
2. Pre-Bid Conference	: January 31, 2006 –2:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
3. Dropping of Bids	: February 13, 2006 –8:00-12:00 Noon	BAC Secretariat
4. Opening of Bids	: February 13, 2006 –2:00-5:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
5. Bid Evaluation	: February 14, 2006	ABC Conference Hall
6. Post Qualification	: February 15, 2006	ABC Conference Hall
7. Notice of Award	: February 16, 2006	ABC Conference Hall

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount fixed by the Bids and Awards Committee. All bids shall be accompanied with a bid security equivalent to 1% for CASH BOND based on the TOTAL AMOUNT of the APPROVED BUDGET of the items.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat office at telephone numbers, 084-218-8639, 084-218-2349 or visit the BAC Secretariat Office at 2nd floor of SP Building, Bonifacio St., Tagum City.

The Bids and Awards Committee a.) reserves the right to reject any or all bids; b.) waive any defect or formality; c.) declare failure of bidding if there is *prima facie* evidence of any prohibited act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies any or all bidding procedures to the disadvantage of the government; d.) assumes no obligation whatsoever to indemnify the bidder(s) for any expense that they may incur in the preparation of their bids; and e.) to accept only such bid(s) established to be the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ROLAND G. TUMANDA**
Acting City Legal Officer
BAC-Chairman

(PDI–Jan. 15 & 22, 2006)

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Last day of submission of application is on **February 15, 2006**

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- With strong skills in analysis, Good team player
- 3 to 5 years experience as accounting supervisor or head
- Will assist the manager in carrying-out accounting and financial plans and control for the company

Interested applicants, please submit resumé with photo, copy of transcript of records to:

RPM Office 2/F Harrison Plaza Complex, Malate, Manila
or call **Mary Rose Gob** at 525-4264 or e-mail to maryrosegob@hotmail.com

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sbma

PROCUREMENT & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone Philippines

PPMD-ADM-022

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority – Procurement and Property Management Department is now accepting application for registration of prospective suppliers / contractors and the renewal of registration for existing suppliers/contractors for the supply of various goods and services to the SBMA for the year 2006.

Please submit the following documents as applicable to the above address:

1) Letter of Request for Registration addressed to Head, PPMD
2) Fully Accomplished Suppliers Registration Form
3) Information Sheet
   a.) Manager/Proprietor
   b.) Authorized Company Representative
4) Registration Requirements
   a.) Minimum Requirements
      i. Notarized Company Profile
      ii. SEC/DTI Registration, *whichever is appropriate*
      iii. Article of Incorporation/Partnership, *if applicable*
      iv. Valid Municipal/City Business/Mayor's Licenses and Permits
      v. VAT Registration certificates and receipts of payments remitted for the last two (2) years
      vi. Audited/Comparative Financial Statement for the Last Two (2) Years
      vii. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
      viii. Tax Clearance
      ix. Gov't E-Procurement Service (GEPS) Registration Certificate
      x. Authorized and/or Exclusive Distributorship/Dealership
      xi. Certificate of Non-block listed with any Government Agency.
      xii. Certificate Authorizing PPMD to verify all registration documents provided.
      xiii. Affidavit of Authenticity and Completeness of Documents and information presented
   b.) Additional requirements apply for suppliers/contractors of drug and other health commodities, veterinary products, consulting and civil works.

For more information, please contact Florante G. Espiritu at phone number (047) 252-4283.

(Sgd.) RANI C. CRUZ
Manager

(PDI – January 15 & 22, 2006)

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PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

January 9, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS IN SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS PRESENTLY IN NEED OF FORTY (40) STRONG SECURITY GUARDS FROM A LICENSED SECURITY AGENCY.

You are therefore invited to submit your bids/proposals to the PBAC and participate in a sealed bidding on January 26, 2006 (Thursday), 11:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representatives. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.

REQUEST FURTHER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SEALED BIDS/PROPOSALS ASIDE FROM THE BID AMOUNT, **THE TERMS OF PAYMENT, LICENSE CERTIFICATE, NUMBER OF SECURITY FORCE & COMPANY'S PROFILE. THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE VERY VITAL IN OUR PBAC EVALUATION PURPOSES.** THE BID BOND IS EITHER IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT (2.5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OR SURETY BOND (W/O.R.) EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE. ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT PELCO II BOARD ROOM AT EXACTLY 11:00 A.M. FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT OR VISIT PBAC CHAIRPERSON MS. ANA LEA N. NARCISO, TEL. NO. (045) 900-0611 OR MR. NEIL S. ISIP (045) 901-0864 TO 65.

LATE SUBMISSION OF BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE PBAC HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY IN THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT SUCH MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

PLEASE BE INFORMED FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF YOUR COMPANY AT PELCO II OFFICE. ACCREDITATION FEE IS ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). ASIDE FROM THE ACCREDITATION FEE, THE PBAC WILL BE CHARGING ALL BIDDERS ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) FOR THE BID DOCUMENTS.

(Sgd.) **ANA LEA N. NARCISO**
PBAC Chairperson

(PDI-Jan. 15 & 16, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
For the Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its 2005 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of *P2,786,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract *for the supply and delivery of IT Equipment and Software*, as follows:

Lot	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	SOURCE OF FUNDS
1	BACK-UP SYSTEM (Server, Tape Drive, and Back-up/Restore Software)	1,400,000.00	GOP
2	14 UNITS Personal Computers	490,000.00	GOP
3	Lotus Notes Domino R7	384,000.00	Foreign Grant, British Government
4	DB2VDB VS.2	512,000.00	Foreign Grant, British Government

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of IT Equipment and Software.* Delivery is required within 30 days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on** ***January 31, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10ᵗʰ floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on February 14, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *February 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the NFA Boardroom, *10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity – NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Persons – Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address – 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone No. – (632) 712-0454
e-mail address – vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Fax No. – (632) 712-0454
Website – www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI-January 15 & 22, 2006)

WORK FOR A HUMANITARIAN AGENCY

The **Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC)** is announcing vacancies for different positions. The qualifications are enumerated hereunder. Interested applicants are requested to submit their application letter, CV, Diploma and Transcript of Records either through mail or fax (fax # 5276219) on or before 20 January 2006 to The Manager, HRD Office, PNRC, Port Area, Manila. Qualified applicants shall be contacted.

ADVOCACY OFFICER

1. Graduate of a 4-year Social Science Course, Background in law & legislative work is a plus;
2. Background in humanitarian law is preferred;
3. Excellent presentation, teaching, computer skills (Windows package);
4. Good PR and networking skills; and
5. Fluent in spoken and written English & Tagalog

PROJECT ASSISTANT

1. Graduate of a 4-year Social Science Course;
2. Background in writing legal research papers, legislative work & humanitarian law is a plus;
3. Good computer skills (Windows Package); and
4. Fluent in spoken & written English & Tagalog.

INFORMATION WRITER

1. A bachelor's degree holder in Mass Communications and/or Journalism; Preferably with a minimum of 1 year working experience
2. Excellent in communication skills & computer literate (MS Office, PageMaker or Photoshop); &
3. Experienced in feature, news writing and topics of human interest (Please submit a photocopy of write-ups or articles written)

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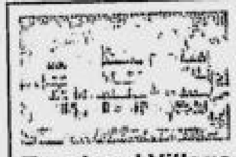

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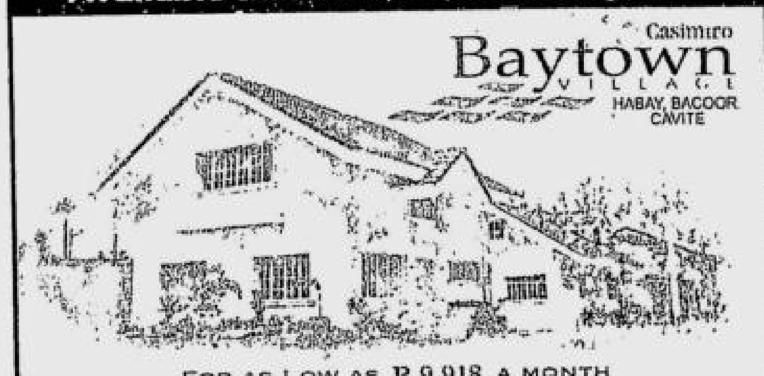

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notice is hereby given that etstate of the late RAMON S. JUAREZ, SR. has been settled by his heirs through final extrajudicial settlement executed by Junnito Saavedra Notaryt Public of Manila Doc #2279 Page #57 Book # VI dated Jan 6, 2005 Manila IBP 634248 Jan 7, 2005 Pasig.
PDI-January 15, 22 &29, 2006

MF1.1|PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dia logue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no mat ter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.
G.S.T.

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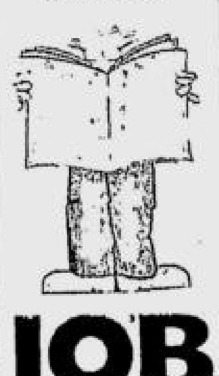

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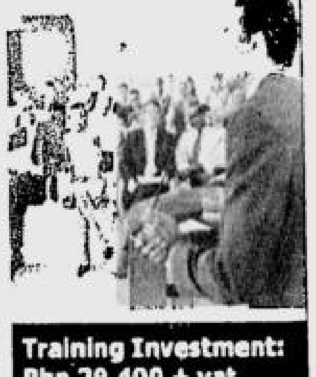

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the bidding of the following requirements:

Four (4) Units Reconditioned Japan Surplus Crawler Type BACKHOE (Hydraulic Excavator) 6 Cylinder Diesel as specified.

The list of pre-qualification requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax# (035) 225-2433.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on January 24, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO while the submission and opening of bids is scheduled on February 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. also at the same venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI-January 15 & 22, 2006)

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– male/female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity.

Counter & Checking Manager/Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing counter and checking operations and functions such as cashiering, credit card and cash transactions in the assigned branch department.

– female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions; responsible for over-all supervision of personnel in the department.

Warehouse Manager/Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for an assigned branch warehouse in terms of proper planning and controlling of operations functions and directing of a group.

– male; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; able to lead and motivate staff, and foster a team working environment.

Customer Relations Service Manager/Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, promulgation and implementation of the over-all security program of the Company.

– male/female; not over 35 years old; graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course; male must be at least 5'5 1/2" & female must be at least 5'2" in height; with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel; with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior; with keen investigation skills, detail oriented and physically fit; must be flexible to different work assignments; willing to be assigned in provincial branches and work on extended hours.

Office Assistant

(Human Resources • Accounting • Treasury • Customer Service)

– female; not over 25 years old; graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year business course; personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours.

If you believe you are the **ideal candidate**, you may apply personally at:

4/F Bridgeway, Between Dad's Steak House and Tia Maria's Restaurant SM Megamall
January 20-21, 2006
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

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Department of Health
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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg #6, San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz
Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 743-63-01 Loc 1625/1627

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
Health Sector Development Project
Procurement of Information Technology Equipment & Peripherals, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fixtures
IFB NO. 2006-2-14 (2)

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank toward the cost of Health Sector Development Project (HSDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Information Technology Equipment & Peripherals, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fixtures under Loan Agreement No. 2137.
2. The DOH now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Information Technology Equipment and Peripherals. Delivery of the GOODS is required by thirty (30) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans", and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division (PD) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on January 31, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., at the address given below.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m., February 14, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following form and amount in Philippine Pesos. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the Approved Budget for the Contract for the *Lot/ Package* for which Bids submitted
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit or Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)

8. Bid opening shall be on February 14, 2006, 10:00 a.m., at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Building 6
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz Manila
Trunkline Number: 7438301 loc. 1625 & 1626 Telefax No.: 7419775

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and COBAC Chairperson

(PDI-January 15 & 22, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 12-134-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project	:	Renewal of Connectivity Project
Approved Budget	:	Twenty Million Pesos (P 20,000,000.00)
Duration of Contract	:	Two (2) year contract
Source of Fund	:	Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from January 6, 2006 to January 27, 2006** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*	
Pre-Bid Conference	January 17, 2006	(2pm)
Submission of Bids	January 30, 2006	(10 am)
Opening of Bids	January 30, 2006	(10 am onwards)

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government *(R.A. 9184, Sec. 41)*.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 4

(PDI - January 8 & 15, 2006)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF CONTAMINATED BUNKER-C AND WASTE OIL

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : January 18, 2006, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the contaminated Bunker-C and located Power Barge 106, Keppel Shipyard, Bauan, Batangas.

SCHEDULE-I

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	Contaminated Bunker-C and waste oil approximately 460,000 liters located at PB-106, Keppel Shipyard Bauan, Batangas	P 8.00 / liter

Note : Interested parties who wish to secure bid form for the above items must be accredited/registered waste oil processors or treaters and must present valid DENR Permit to Operate

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004) ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER
3. VALID TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER
4. VALID PERMIT TO OPERATE AND TSD REGISTRATION

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P550.00/set from Mr SAMUEL V. LOMUNTAD, Acting Manager, Warehousing, Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Q.C or call telephone no. 922-8431. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM January 17, 2006.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) ATTY. CATHERINE J. PABLO
Officer-In-Charge
Materials Management Department

(PDI - January 13, 14 & 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-98-22•631-0673; Telefax No. 635-9826

Loan No. 1654-PHI

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, is a recipient of an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be utilized for eligible expenditures in the proposed **Repair and Improvement of the SEDIP Office** covering the conference room at the 3rd floor and the SEDIP staff and consultant's offices at the 4th and 5th Floors located at **Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.**

ADB requires that bidders and contractors as well as the DepEd, under contracts funded with ODA loans, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contract. In pursuance of this, ADB (i) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question; and (ii) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with ADB-ODA loans and, if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract financed by ADB-ODA loans.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid license, general building category and eligible to enter into a contract based on award.

Scope of works includes: (i) demolition of existing and affected areas, (ii) restoration works, (iii) provision of cabinets, shelves, furniture, etc. (iv) painting works, (v) electrical works, (vi) mechanical works and (vii) provision of audio-visual equipment.

Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the bidding documents from:

The Bids and Awards Committee Office
Room 508, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested and eligible bidders starting **January 16, 2006 until January 30, 2006** from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above office and payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the DepEd Cashier.

A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **January 30, 2006, 10:00 AM** to be held at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.**

Submission of bids together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue **not later than 10:00 AM of February 14, 2006.** All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all the bidders or their legally authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR MAROHOMBSAR
Vice Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Jan. 15 & 22, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

For the application of License in POEA

S.N.G MANPOWER AGENCY

GRACE S. BAMBA
President

Staff	**Position**
SHEGEKI NAKAYAMA	*Recruitment Clerk*
NORIETA BAMBA	*Cashier*
CHARLES CONRAD BAMBA	*Liaison Officer*
JONI JANE BAMBA	*Accountant*
LEOPOLDO BAMBA, JR.	*Messenger*
LEOPOLD BAMBA	*Messenger*

Unit 114 Sevilla Building
Vista de Lago Condominium
Tuktukan, Taguig City
Telefax : (632) 542-0946
Cell : +63 915 56 56 723

(PDI–January 15, 2005)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5275

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

18" & 24" CS Pipes under FGJ 50923
Approved Budget – PHP 6,110,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Harold T. Fontillas** starting January 15, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **January 26, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Purchasing and Traffic Division at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department office Wall Clock Time) of February 9, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Jan. 15 & 22, 2006)

Imagine yourself earning **P50,000** to **P100,000**
Start right away with **P7,000** by

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Jan. 16, 18, 24, 26 & 30, 2006	– 2 PM SHARP	JOLLIBEE, SM Megamall 5th Flr.
Jan. 20 & 27, 2006	– 2 PM SHARP	Jollibee, Sta. Lucia East Mall old 2F
Jan. 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 27 & 31, 2006	– 10 AM, 2PM & 5 PM	G/F, Octagon Bldg., San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City (back of SM Megamall)

Please bring this AD to serve as your passes. Raffle & Giveaways await you! Don't miss it!

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration Regional Office No. 4
Pila, Laguna
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

January 15, 2006
World Bank/IBRD
Loan. No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Barangay Paciolo, Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro. The bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) through the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 4, implementing partner of Department of Agrarian Reform for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Rehabilitation and Expansion of Paciolo Communal Irrigation System under Contract No. RIIRR 05 174 03 PAP-OM**

Project Duration: 240 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PhP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: Php 205,000.00
Bid Closing Date: February 15, 2006 @ 2:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	SCOPE OF WORK	UNIT	QUANTITY
I. DIVERSION WORKS			
1700	Class "A" Concrete (D.W.)	cu.m.	152.51
1700	Class "A" Conc. (Pier & Ftg.)	cu.m.	17.61
1700	Class "A" Conc. (Barrel)	cu.m.	13.25
1900	Conc. Blocks (Rubble Masonry)	cu.m.	20.42
1900	Rubble Masonry	cu.m.	42.81
2900	Filter Drain	cu.m.	20.59
2900	Inverted Filter Drain	cu.m.	17.70
2700	Grouted Riprap	cu.m.	15.91
600	Structure Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	454.00
1200	Structure Backfill (Manual)	cu.m.	211.00
300	Cofferdamming	cu.m.	73.00
300	Cost of Dewatering	cu.m.	138.00
3300	Vert. Slide Steel Gate (Canhabang)	unit.	1.00
3300	Vert. Slide Steel Gate (Inbarasan)	unit.	1.00
	Wooden Flashboard	bd.ft.	580.00
2600	Concrete Demolition	cu.m.	2.00
II. CANAL STRUCTURES			
1700	Class "A" Concrete (Ordinary)	cu.m.	18.60
1700	Class "A" Concrete (Barrel)	cu.m.	48.24
2400	24" Dia. RCP	pcs.	52.00
2600	Concrete Demolition	cu.m.	0.44
600	Structure Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	365.10
1200	Structure Backfill (Manual)	cu.m.	222.30
	Cofferdamming	cu.m.	189.00
III. CANALIZATION			
1700	Class "B" Concrete (Reinf.)	cu.m.	380.00
4100	4" CHB Lining	sq.m.	2,745.24
400	Common Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	1,909.59
1200	Common Backfill (Manual)	cu.m.	1,590.91
IV. PROJECT FACILITIES			
	1. IA Warehouse/Office	l.s.	1.00
V. MOB/DEMOB. OF EQUIPTS.		l.s.	1.00

Minimum Equipments Required

Dump Truck, 4-6 cu.m. capacity (2 units) – owned; Backhoe Excavator, Crawler Type (1 unit) – owned; Vibratory Plate Compactor (2 units) – 1 owned; 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer (4 units) – owned; Concrete Vibrator (2 units) – owned; 4" O Dewatering Pumps (2 units) – owned; survey instruments and materials testing apparatus – leased/owned

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, NIA Regional Office No. 4, Pila, Laguna starting January 16, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000.00 for each set. A pre-bid conference will be held at NIA-Occidental Mindoro PIMO, San Jose City on February 1, 2006 at 9:00 A.M.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 calendar days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PhP 205,000.00 in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office, NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 4, Pila, Laguna, on or before the Bid closing date on February 15, 2006 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

The NIA Regional Irrigation Office 4 - ARCDPII BAC, Pila, Laguna reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) DANIEL S. BARCIAL
Chairman, NIA RIO-4, BAC, ARCDPII

(PDI-January 15, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with **C.F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC.**

1.	Noel L. Seguban	Effective	09-Dec-05
2.	Djoanna T. Figuerres	Effective	15-Dec-05
3.	Lilia V. Dorado	Effective	31-Dec-05

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

(PDI-January 15, 2006)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

1. **non-performing assets (electrical materials and vehicles) for disposal**
2. **Electrical Materials for Distribution Line Construction**

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
   - a. Company Profile
   - b. Business Registration
   - c. Business Permit
   - d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   - f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements - January 23, 2006.

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Macanaya District Aparri Cagayan
Tel No (078) 888-2173 • Telefax No (078) 888-2940
E-mail cagelco2main@digitelone.com

(Sgd) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI-January 8 and 15, 2006)

PHILEX MINING CORPORATION

No. 27 Brixton Street and Fairlane Street
Pasig City, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONTRACT: SUPPLY, MAINTENANCE AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES
PMC'S CABLE BELT CONVEYING SYTEM

Philex Mining Corporation invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the above-cited contract. Only contractors with a minimum of five (5) years experience in supplying parts and/or operating a cable belt conveyor system will be welcomed. Also, interested parties must submit their intent to participate and their latest company profile by January 19, 2006 and attend the pre-qualification orientation scheduled on January 23, 2006, 1:00 pm at Padcal, Tuba, Benguet.

All letters and/or inquiries submit to: Atty. Jennifer Jane Gogoling, Bidding Chairman (fax no.: 09195470629 / Cellphone no. 09189193266 / email: jfg@philexmining.com.ph).

(Sgd.) **JOSE ERNESTO C. VILLALUNA**
President and Chief Operating Officer

(PDI - January 15, 2006)

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TOMAS L. TORRES

ng Payapa, Malvar, Batangas

ay mapayapang namatay noong ika 13 ng Enero 2006 sa gulang na 96.

Ang kanyang nagluluksang mga Anak na si **RUBEN** at **MANDY, DANTE** at **LORRIE, BABY, ROMY** at **VIOLY**, lahat na mga **APO** at mga **KAPATID** na si **NARDING** at **DINOY**, ay nakikiusap na inyong ipagdasal para sa kapayapaan ng kanyang kaluluwa.

Ang kanyang labi ay nakaburol sa NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS na matatagpuan sa Daang Dau, Barangay San Antonio, Lungsod ng Makati.

Ang libing ay saka na ipapaalam.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

You are gone...
But for us you never left...
God has you in His keeping
We have you in our hearts.

Our Dearly Beloved

ROSITA LIM ANG

now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord. She joined our Creator on the 11th of January 2006, at the age of 86.

Her loving husband **NEMESIO**; children **ALFRED & JEANNE KHU, JANET & JOHNNY CHUA, STEVEN & SANDRA SIM**; grandchildren **ANDREW, PATRICK, MATTHEW, SAMANTHA, JARED** and **JEREMY** and all her relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 19, 2006 at The Heritage Park, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 8:00 AM Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

The family of
Rogelio "Roger" M. Sarmiento
his children
Rocco and Terry, Nikki, Issa and Mika
and grandson, Kenshin

wish to express their gratitude and appreciation
for those who mourned, prayed for, commemorated, honored, called,
sent messages, flowers, tokens and presents,
and visited their beloved

"CORINNA"

Ma. Del Socorro M. Sarmiento
(August 16, 1954 to December 5, 2005)

throughout her fight with cancer and on her passing on to the after-life.

*

Our special thanks to those who donated to the CMS Fund Memorial Foundation for Cancer Patients.
Those who wish to donate may deposit to:
Corinna Mutuc-Sarmiento Memorial Fund
Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (MBTC) Account No. 3-14913264-4.

Our Dearly Beloved

DRA. AIDA CALCETA BOISER

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 13, 2006.

Her bereaved daughter Rowena; son-in-law John; grandchildren Charmaine & Christine; brothers and sister Jose (†), Erdulfo (†), Nilda (†), Narciso, Ricardo (†), Virgilio & Erlinda; nephews & nieces and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.**

Interment will be at the **Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the Funeral Mass on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 8:00 A.M. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.**

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

ANTONIO GONZALES DUMLAO

who died on January 4, 2006

Convey their heartfelt gratitude
to all those who in one way or another
commiserated with them in their hour of grief.
Special thanks to friends and relatives
who not only offered prayers, flowers and other
forms of consolation, but also shared their precious time
with the family in their moment of spiritual need.

GOD BLESS!

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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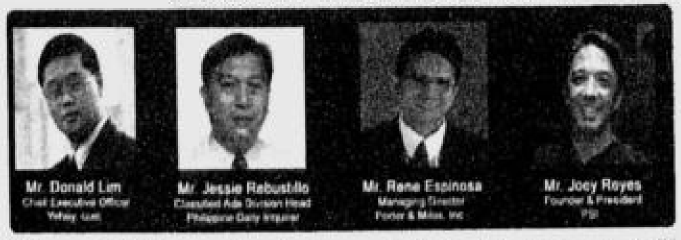

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- Isaac Disraeli

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- 8 Proven-Effective Ways of Closing More Sales
- How to create a sense of urgency : 3 Essential Methods
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  - > Neuro-Linguistics Programming and Selling: 3 Mental Maps
  - > Review of the Basic Presentation Techniques

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NCCA Ani ng Sining 2006 opens at Luneta Park

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) through the Tunugan Foundation, Inc. and in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee, will launch the National Arts Month with the theme Ani ng Sining 2006, a celebration of the country's bountiful harvest in the arts at the Rizal Park on Feb. 4-5, 2006 from 6 pm to midnight.

The arts month kicks off with a two-day celebration of quality performances of award winning groups and best productions representing the different art forms. It will also feature the "fresh" yields – achievements and new directions in Philippine arts.

To call attention to the country's wealth in the arts and the significant role that the arts play in uplifting the nation, Ani ng Sining 2006 opening will make all its performances free to the public.

Among the featured performances are those of the internationally recognized Benny Sokkong and the Cordillera Ethnic Music Ensemble, Celso Espejo Rondalla, Pangkat Kawayan (The Singing Bamboos of the Philippines), Earthsavers Kalahi Dream Academy (UNESCO Artists for Peace 2003 Awardee), Ramon Magsaysay Choir (NAMCYA 2005 first prize winner in the High School Category), St. Louie University Glee Club (NAMCYA 2005 First prize winner in the College Category) the acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers, Makiling Ensemble (promoters of tradition-based music creations) and the UP Singing Ambassadors who recently won the gold in the 2005 Habanera Competitions of Spain.

Other highlights include: award winning composer and devoted nationalist Noel Cabangon, Serenata ng mga Banda featuring Banda Malaya, the Navy Band and Banda 88; film installations; dance performances by the UE Dance Troupe, Philippine Ballet Theater, Quezon City Ballet and the Bayanihan Dance Company; a balagtasan, choral renditions of Felipe de Leon's "Ako'y Pilipino", Lucrecia Kasilag's "Kung Maari Sana" and Chino Toledo's "Sambayan", a fireworks display and so much more.

For Inquiries on the opening ceremonies of Ani ng Sining 2006, please call 926-0028.

Global contracts for Pinoy seafarers surpass 300,000 mark

THE TOTAL GLOBAL EMPLOYment contracts processed for overseas Filipino seafarers has surpassed the 300,000 mark showing a robust preference and demand for their skills in global shipping, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) today said.

Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said that some 302,328 contracts for the overseas Filipino seafarers were processed globally in 2005, or 10,812 higher than the total 291,516 contracts processed in 2004.

She said that the 302,328 contracts processed comprised some one-third, or 30.80 percent, of the 981,337 overseas employment contracts processed for both land- and sea-based overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in 2005.

She also said that the global preference of the world's shipping industry on Filipino seafarers who comprise some 25 percent of the world's seafarers supply is anchored solidly on the Philippines' continuous efforts to ensure compliance with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping Convention (STCWC).

Meanwhile, Sto. Tomas said that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered the setting up of a DOLE-led program to strengthen the country's capacity to supply officers to the global maritime industry in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education and the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC).

The global seafaring industry will need some 35,000 officers in the next five to 10 years, and the program to strengthen the country's capacity to meet demand will enable the graduates of mechanical or electrical engineering to shift and become marine officers, she said.

In general, the thrust will emphasize the right academic preparation and also encourage seafarers not to remain as they are but opt for upgrading to officer rank, Sto. Tomas said.

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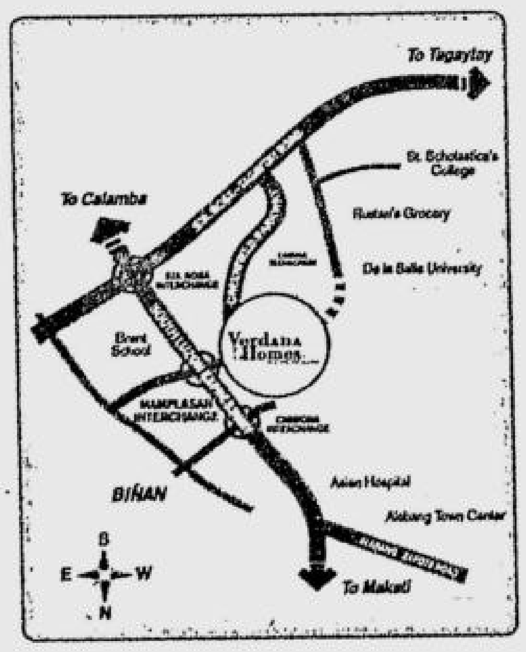

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APPLE CEO Steve Jobs BEIA FORMOSO

A first for Mac, Intel and Filipinos

By Beia Formoso
Contributor

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA—THE HIGHly anticipated annual Apple Macworld Conference & Expo at the Moscone Convention Center in the company's home state officially kicked off Jan. 10 with CEO Steve Jobs launching the first Mac desktop computer and laptop to be suited with Intel processors.

It was a day of firsts indeed for both Apple Computer and Intel Corporations and the Philippines, as the 2006 Macworld Conference & Expo marks the first time a Filipino delegation was present in the very hall where the famous Steve Jobs delivered his keynote address.

The 9:30 a.m. keynote address had journalists across all media and from the world over lining up as early as 6 a.m. just to get a coveted seat close to the stage and the charismatic Jobs, whose legendary last words, "And one more thing ..." always introduced a new Apple gadget that normally has consumers jumping on their toes in excitement.

Guessing game

The audience was second guessing what that groundbreaking product would be during the middle of the speech, when suddenly, the stage opened up to reveal Intel Corp. CEO Paul Otellini in a white, clean room suit (although it looked more like a spacesuit, a constant in Intel advertisements) grasping a shiny Intel microchip wafer.

"Steve, I wanted to report that Intel's ready," he said, amid the hollers and cheers as he handed the chip to Jobs.

This led to the introduction of the iMac desktop personal computer and, for that "one more thing ...," the MacBook Pro notebook. Both are fitted with the Intel Duo Core processor, a breakthrough chip that promises higher performance while optimizing energy efficiency.

However, only the iMac is readily available. Eager fans will have to wait until February for the MacBook Pro.

The announcement of Mac shifting to Intel processors was made in Spring 2005, and that promise was that by June of 2006, Apple would be shipping Macs with Intel processors.

The launch of the new computers means that Apple and Intel are six months ahead of schedule.

IPod accessories

For iPods, the only new accessory is the iPod Radio Remote, an FM turner and remote control-in-one for the iPod (including iPod nanos).

This despite the boasts made by Jobs at the start of the speech that 14 million iPods were sold just over the last Christmas holiday season, bringing the total number of iPod users to 42 million.

The iTunes Music Store has sold 850 million songs to date and, even though the Video iPod came out just recently, 8 million videos have already been sold.

But Jobs insisted that this was a 'Mac' world conference, and cited that the decision on the name MacBook Pro was "because we're kind of done with 'Power' and because we want 'Mac' in the name of our products."

On the software front, Apple presented iLife '06 and iWork '06.

Jobs himself demonstrated the new and improved iLife, which had added another application to its roster, the iWeb, for creating websites and blogs in a snap.

Another guest during the keynote, whose entrance carried far less fanfare, however, was Ro Ho, a spokesperson from Microsoft.

Ho pledged a five-year Microsoft commitment to ship new versions of Office for Mac and even better news for new Mac users–a 50-percent discount off Office when you buy a Mac.

Jobs began his speech on a high note, showing off the company's numbers for 2005: $5.7 billion in revenue, $1 million of which was made in Apple's retail stores in only the last quarter where 26 million people visited.

The Macworld Conference & Expo was held Jan. 9-13 and featured hundreds of new products in exhibit halls filled with over 300 companies serving the Mac community.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Text your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

WOMEN, think big! Jewelry should be bold, long and layered

Big is it for 2006

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

SPRING/SUMMER 2006 MUST-HAVES FOR women. According to US Vogue, the predominant spring/summer 2006 signature look is "Big!" Gym totes and small handbags are over; women need to have super-sized carryalls.

For shoes, chunky heels in platform or wedge are in style. Belts are wide, and buckles should be more pronounced and visible.

For necklaces, go for long and layered, which goes from the neck to the nether regions.

So, time to overhaul your look and get on the 2006 fashion bandwagon.

Must-have CD—Chris Botti. I am going to be the first one to toot my horn about this. TNT was the first to introduce to the Filipinos such singers as Josh Groban, Mario Frangoulis, Russel Watson, Michael Bublé and Il Divo. If you agree that my batting average is good, then you must get this album, "Chris Botti—To Love Again."

Botti plays the trumpet and is a gifted composer and musician. I first heard and saw him when he first appeared on Oprah Winfrey's show. He is a Grammy nominee and performed alongside Josh Groban in the latter's concerts last year.

Jazz is not my preferred listening choice, but this one is different. In the album, Botti is joined by gifted singers such as Sting ("What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life"), Michael Bublé ("Let There Be Love"), Steven "Aerosmith" Tyler ("Charlie Chaplin's Smile"). And his instrumental tracks are nothing but magical, sexy and haunting, from "I'll Be Seeing You" to "Embraceable You" and the carrier single, "To Love Again."

On the local front, there are two male singers that have awesome voices—Christian Bautista and Jed Madela. They both are my contenders for Martin's and Gary's "King of Ballads" throne. I purchased "Jed Madela's Songs Rediscovered" and was pleasantly surprised.

Madela's cover of the survivor classic, "The Search is Over," is better than the original.

For men—The return of the pocket square. In the past few years, men's evening wear has changed drastically. One particular subject of debate is whether a man should wear a tie or not.

Personally, I like both. Neckties add color to a rather predictable wardrobe. And when you just want to go for that sexy, elegant look, there's nothing better than a bare (or hairy) chest as an accessory.

There's one men's fashion accessory (first worn 400 years ago) that's making a comeback—the pocket square. Introduced in the men's spring/summer '06, from the YSL show to Dries Van Noten's, the pocket square is actually a handkerchief (silk or cotton, in different colors, either plain or with design), but when used in a suit, it's called that way.

How do you wear it? According to GQ magazine, "It should be worn in a neat square, with a flat fold at the top. It should really just look like it's part of the ensemble, a clean little accent."

There are well-dressed men in the city who have always worn the pocket square, but for those of us who want an accent to update our wardrobe, this is a great and elegant way to do so.

What I have learned so far? Now that we are halfway through the first month of 2006 and have broken just about every New Year's resolution, I would like to humbly share the things I have learned in 2005.

1. **Never use the phones in hotel bathrooms.** Once, as I sat on the seat of my hotel bathroom, the phone rang and I picked it up. When I placed it down, I realized how many people had sat on the same seat and used the phone. Scary thought!

2. **TV poker.** I don't know what it is about TV poker that amazes me. But when I got to playing it myself with relatives during the holiday, it was not that fun. Why? There were no TV cameras, announcers and a monitor showing my cards on TV.

3. **Airline coffee sucks!** Never toy with coffee. Since Starbucks entered the fray, I have been a caffeine junkie (consuming three to four cups a day). I have sworn never to drink those 3-in-1 instant blends. Since I traveled a lot last year, I have stayed away from coffee served in airplanes. (There are, however, some airlines that serve gourmet coffee.)

4. **Pinoy news magazine shows are excellent.** I remember being interested in news/commentary shows like "Probe" when it was on Channel 7. These shows showcased the good, the bad and the ugly in our country.

Recently "The Correspondents" (my favorite local TV show) had a piece on grandmothers in jail that was heart-wrenching, as well as a great story on Filipinos who made it in the US.

"Pipol" had a great feature on its annual People of the Year list. Although these shows are not big moneymakers like soaps or sitcoms, they make us aware of current issues.

5. **New year, new hope.** I get such a high when I wake up at dawn just to see the first crack of daylight. And with the new year, I strive to make a new beginning, to make things right, to try and be the best I can be.

In life, I have learned that although there is room for errors and triumphs, there is no room for guilt or feeling sorry for myself. Once I have learned the lesson, I must move on.

Here's wishing you a great year of hope, light and love!

For comments e-mail antonsd@philtatler.com

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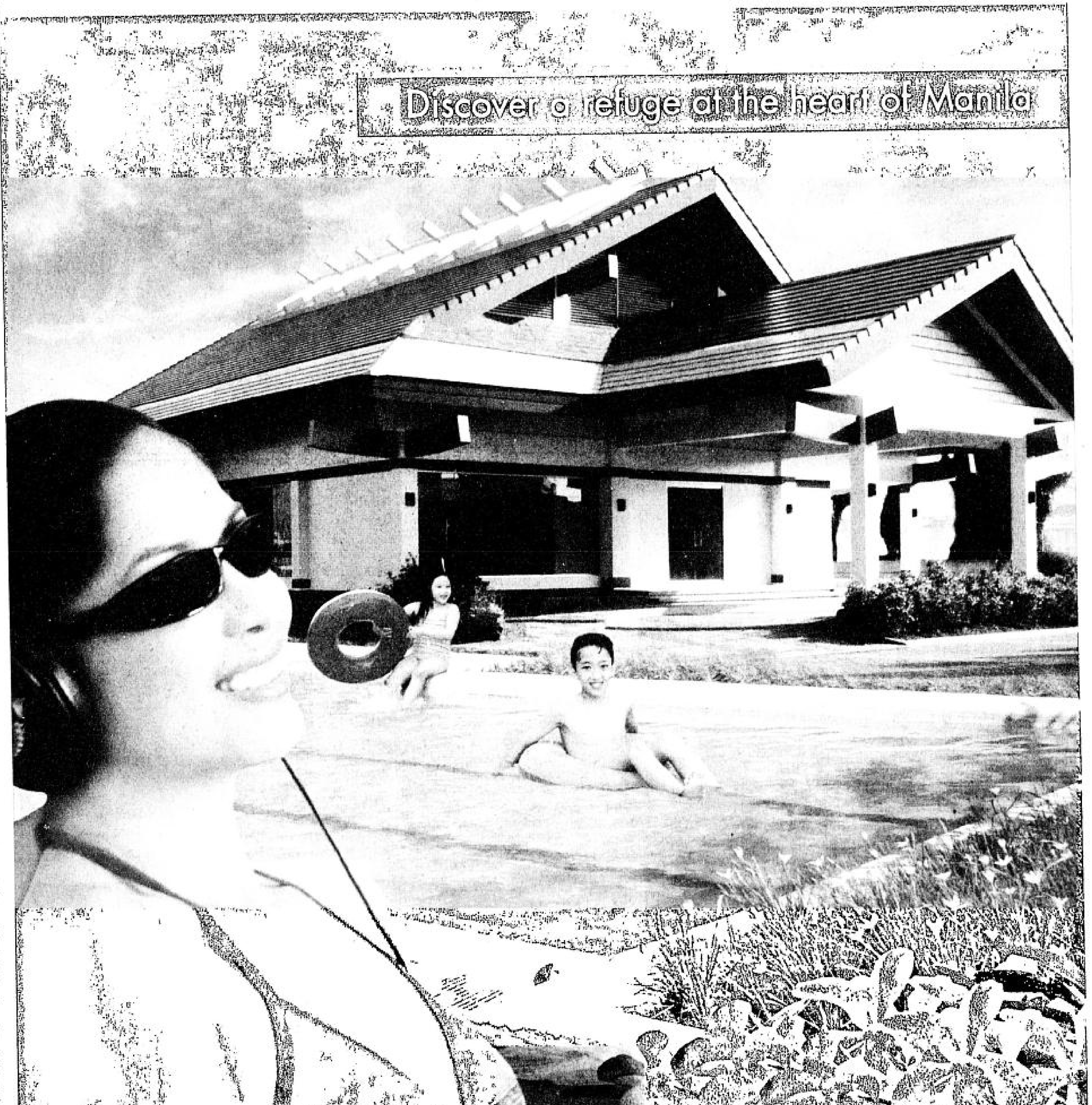

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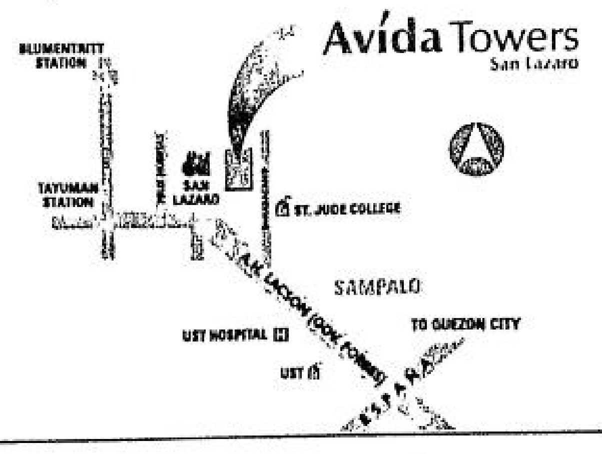

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MANGYAN Heritage Center head Lolita Fansler and designer Dita Sandico-Ong

ART LOVERS Tina Turalba and Ambeth Ocampo

MANGYAN exhibit guests Jun and Tessie Campillo

CEBU'S society couple, Amparito and Michel Lhuillier

CEBU classy set Minnie Osmeña, Denise Osmeña, Margie Lhuillier, Georgia Osmeña, Gabby Leyson and Maybelline Te

When ballroom dancing and breastfeeding come together

PRETTY debutante Denise watches Latin dancers Jimmy Noel and Ariadne Velasquez.

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

NOTHING CAN ARREST TIME SO enjoy every moment whether it's experiencing your first kiss or kissing your grandchildren at night. I was once at that rebellious stage of being a teenager but it is all such a blur now. Last week, I was fondly remembering how it was to be 18 again with so many promising plans. I recall one choice was my decision to go to finishing school in Switzerland in lieu of a debutante party.

After attending the 18th birthday party of my godchild, **Denise Patricia Osmeña Jalandoni**, I almost want to go back in time and have that debut anyway. Denise's party was an evening of dinner and dance, a well-choreographed celebration of a pretty teenybopper, who is turning out to be a really levelheaded lady.

I "inherited" my *inaanak* Denise from my late brother, **Louie Prieto,** who was her *ninong* in baptism. For her confirmation, I was one of her godparents along with ace photographer **Pancho Escaler**. For the ceremony, we both flew to Cebu, where the family moved almost 10 years ago.

When her ballroom-dancing mother, **Georgia Osmeña** (who celebrates her birthday today), asked me to be one of the 18 treasures of Denise at her coming-out party, I freed up my post-holiday schedule and flew to Cebu via always-on-time Cebu Pacific.

Although it was an extremely short trip, I still had a whole suitcase to check in because of my beautiful, royal blue gown by **Dennis Lustico**, and just as important, my breast pump, bottles and a small cooler. I have mastered the art of pumping and storing my breast milk whenever I travel so as to have continuous supply for my baby **Athena**. I have witnessed the incredible benefits of breast milk with Athena. She hardly catches a cold even with everyone around her getting sick.

There's an in-depth article about breastfeeding in this month's issue of Baby Magazine featuring Athena on the cover. In the article, I share my dilemmas and sacrifices in this whole experience. Although I am on the verge of quitting, Athena just latches on and is such a dedicated feeder.

Even at my beloved Emphasis Salon, I was breastfeeding while the styling team led by **Victor Ortega** worked on me before my 5 p.m. flight. With my hair decked out in feathers and rhinestones, the airport metal detector's alarms were ringing so loud. The airport security must have thought I was from the set of "Mulawin"; they in fact joked that I might spread bird flu.

With my hair decked out in feathers and rhinestones, the airport metal detector's alarms were ringing so loudly

DUTCH anthropologist Antoon Postma

Ballroom dancing capital

Cebu is the capital of ballroom dancing. At last year's SEA Games, the dance sport competition was held there and the Philippines bagged almost all the medals. With Georgia ranking in the Games, small wonder that Denise's debut program included several show dances, including a number with her performing the waltz and foxtrot. After the debutante's first dance with her father, **Louie Jalandoni**, her friends performed a belly-dancing number.

After the speeches and wonderful blessings, performances in Latin dance, Argentine tango, mambo and waltz delighted the guests and had all dancing after the program. Sexy, flowing outfits by talented Cebu designer **OJ Hofer** gave me costume ideas!

Among the 18 "treasures" (aunts and uncles bearing wishes and gifts) was international socialite **Minnie Osmeña**, fresh from her holiday vacation in Phuket, Thailand. She shared with me photos of her dining with world-renowned architect **Ed Tattle,** who is the principal designer of the Aman resorts. In the world of big-time jetsetting, Minnie has the most impressive set of international celebrity friends.

Spa destination

Aside from ballroom dancing, Cebu is fast being recognized as a spa destination as well. In the December issue of AsiaSpa Magazine, Chi Spa at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort was second on the Top 10 List of Spas for Christmas. This spa village has private massage cabanas and Watsu (Shiatsu in-water therapy) pools and is a spanking new playground of wellness.

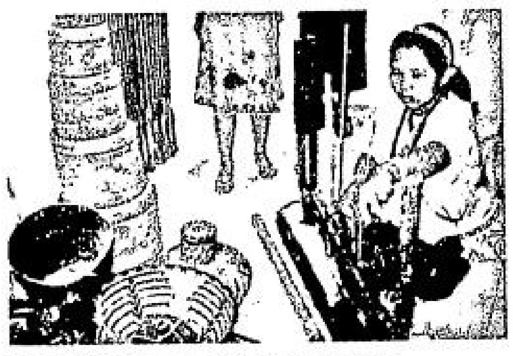
For short trips to Cebu, I also recommend a soothing, therapeutic stone massage treatment in Meddah Spa in Crossroads, Banilad, very near the Waterfront Hotel. The massage is quite reasonable and so relaxing.

With the massive promotions of the Department of Tourism and the 2005 Baccarat AsiaSpa Awards of Mandala Spa in Boracay and The Farm at San Benito, the entire Philippines has been propelled into one of the top spa destinations in the world. Late last year, Mandala Spa (www.mandalaspa.com) took home the top prize: Destination Spa of the Year and the coveted Spa Treatment of the Year for Watsu at BASA, which were announced before 120-plus spa owners at the InterContinental Hotel in Hong Kong.

The Farm at San Benito won Med-Spa of the Year Award for its world-class medical and alternative, preventive healthcare and natural healing programs. Truly, we have so many things to be proud of amidst all the negative issues happening around us.

MEDLEY of dances by Sea Games dancers

MAMBO number by Denise and her 18 male escorts


WEAVING demo of Mangyan cloth

TRADITIONAL Mangyan outfit made of *pandan* plant and rattan

Mangyan gig

At the ongoing "Myth and Meaning" exhibit at the Ayala Museum, we can also be proud of the indigenous crafts and writings of the Mangyan people. Catch the exhibit, which runs until Jan. 23, and experience the ancient script of this race. Afterwards, have lunch at M Café and enjoy the sumptuous recipes with traditional ingredients. The café has placemats that teach you to write your name in Mangyan, the only remaining original script that's still intact.

Rushing to the opening in my ethnic, modern-day version, Mangyan Heritage Center head **Lolita Fansler** quickly changed me into the proper outfit complete with a beaded headband. I had to reject getting into a *pandan*-fiber tube top wrap and a rope-style bottom as these would have meant too much skin (and fat!) exposure for me.

G-STRING fashionistas Kidlat Tahimik and son, Kabunyan de Guia

On Jan. 19, two lectures on the Mangyans will be given at the Ayala Museum starting at 9:30 a.m. One will be on their images, given by National Museum consultant **John Silva**, and the other will be on their writing, given by Fansler. Admission is free so come and get cultured!

A wonderful thought as we start the year: Time does heal all wounds, mend all broken bridges and even make civil any messy relationships.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

MANGYANS in the big city

BACCARAT AsiaSpa Awards winners Beni Gomez, editor Catharine Nicol, Mandala Spa owner Karen Villarica-Reina, The Farm at San Benito owner Perla Rempe, publisher Olivier Burlot and Kate Rodrigo

DEBUTANTE family Georgia Osmeña and Louie Jalandoni with kids Javy, Denise and Joanna

---

'Simple' daughter-in-law becomes a fashionista

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

This letter concerns my new daughter-in-law. We've been residents of the United States for nearly 40 years and both my children are American-born and bred.

One of them, my son, has an MBA from an ivy league university. After working for a company for two years, he and a friend put up their own business and they'd been very successful.

I always prayed that he'd marry a Filipino woman because I am quite old-fashioned. I was very happy when he said he met someone from the Visayas and fell head over heels in love with her. She was a waitress.

Before I knew it, they were already living together. The girl was pretty, shy and quite simple. According to people who knew her then, their family was really poor.

She had been to Manila less than five times in her life. She had been a working student and only experienced comfort when their family was petitioned to go to the US.

Eventually, my son married her and we noticed a big change in her. When before she dressed simply, she now only wears clothes from Lord & Taylor or Saks. She travels constantly with my son and remarked that the shoes from Milan "fit better." I let those remarks go because I understood how deprived she was growing up.

Our problem started when she began acting so haughtily as though to the manner born. She wouldn't allow us to hold her kids unless we had all washed our hands. We could only knock silently and not ring her doorbell when they were all home.

She stays home the whole day with a part-time maid and acts like a queen and won't even cook for my son. Instead, she'd wait for him to come home and let him do it.

I pity my son because, besides traveling so much and working so hard, he still has to do housework. To top it all, she hardly talks to us or greets us when we meet. She used to *beso-beso* me before their marriage but now, we're like strangers!

I can see that my son is starting to be annoyed by all this and I want to talk to him to put some sense in his wife's head. I don't know if that is the right thing to do.

ANNOYED MOTHER-IN-LAW

Please hit the brakes when you feel like meddling in your son's life. Your watch over him is finished. He now has his own branch of your family tree to take care of—by himself.

Their problems, disagreements, annoyances or whatever is shaking their marriage is theirs to solve—not yours. Let them be. Leave them be.

Your daughter-in-law needs all your understanding. She seems to be still in that "awed" stage where she can't believe her good fortune in marrying well.

You can understand how bewildering all this is to her. Give her time to adjust to a life of comfort. As the saying goes, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

Start being her friend by making friendly overtures. Draw her out of her parochial cocoon and teach her that "moneyed" people need not be haughty or hostile toward each other. Make her feel at ease with her deficiencies and allow her space to brush off her feeling of inferiority.

She'll overcome her insecurities and eventually relax as she finds the most comfortable corner of her new world that she can claim as her own. It's a big and cruel environment out there and this poor *probinsiyana* is trying her darndest to cope by presenting this unfriendly façade.

Give her time. She's been poor too long and she's been rich only for some time. I think she will like being rich enough to make her change her present "unsavory" behavior and appearance and revert to her old sweet self that your son fell in love with. They're young and time is on their side.

In the meantime, ask *Santa Paciencia* to top up your cup when it runs low.

(E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.)

Children's prayers are answered

THE SAN LORENZO RUIZ CHURCH IN SAN José, Bulacan will be consecrated and dedicated at 10 a.m., Jan. 22.

Fr. Mario José Ladra remembers that children from the squatters' area would pray every morning saying, "Lord, *gawin mo na ang simbahan namin para makapagsimba na kami sa ngalan ni* Jesus, Amen."

Fr. Mario would invite the children living behind the church every morning to have breakfast with him. Afterwards, they would go inside the chapel and pray.

It took three years to build the church, rectory and pastoral center on the 1,000-sq-m lot in Pleasantville subdivision donated by the Ruben Reyes clan of Bulacan.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Parishioners gave what they could. Donations also came from Chito Madrigal Collantes, the Macaria de Leon family, Mercy Tuason, Trining Panicucci and many others.

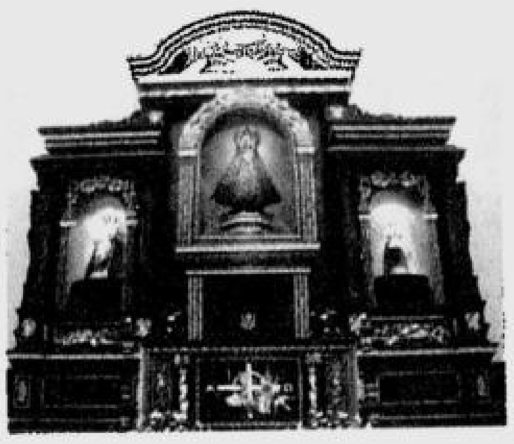
It could have only been a miracle wrought by God, through the intercession of San Lorenzo Ruiz, patron saint of migrants, that P25 million was raised. The church was designed by architect Joseph Herrera and engineer Leonardo Nicolas. Rolando Flores designed the altar in the *retablo*-style and made of old wood from Betis, Pampanga.

Francisco Vecin did the images of San Lorenzo Ruiz and St. Joseph. Fr. Mario bought the antique five-foot image of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary from Vecin.

With the Virgin at the center and the two saints on either side, the *retablo* altar looks resplendent.

The church, "Aming Handog sa Diyos," is ready for blessing by Bishop José Olivares. He will be assisted by Infanta Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona, Bishop Federico Escaler and Bishop Emeritus Cirilo Almario. Priests from the diocese have been invited to concelebrate.

The life story of San Lorenzo Ruiz is depicted on the carved front doors and glossy stained-glass windows.



NEW altar of San Lorenzo Ruiz Church in San José, Bulacan, designed by Rolando Flores

After three years, the San Lorenzo Ruiz church in San Jose, Bulacan was completed

Festival

Bulak is the old name of San Ildefonso town in Bulacan. At 2 p.m., on Jan. 21, there will be a parade of floats depicting the history of the town. Fr. Johann Sebastian says street dancers will precede every float that will feature the cultural and religious traditions of San Ildefonso.

In charge of the festival are Fr. Johann, Vic Cruz and Cora Inobero. Preparations for the fiesta on Jan. 23 are being made by Dr. Gil Villacorte, engineer Paul Cruz and Fr. Leo Coronel, parish priest.

Novena Masses will be held at 5 p.m., until Jan. 22. The Bishop's Mass will be at 9 a.m., on Jan. 23. Masses will be held every hour, then there will be a procession in the evening.

Visiting image

The National Center of St. Philomena at 430 Mayon St., Quezon City, is preparing for the visit of the three-foot image to hospitals, schools and convents. The visit would last nine days, as in a novena.

Those interested can text 0918-5470605. Expenses for travel, especially by air or boat, have to be shouldered by those making the request.

The Most Holy Redeemer Parish, the Santuario de Santa Philomena, celebrated the feast of the patronage of the saint on Jan. 8, and her birthday on Jan. 10.

The 2006 calendar of St. Philomena, with colored pictures and catechism instructions, is available. Send text messages to the cell phone number mentioned earlier.

Favored

A lay missionary, Sister Lilia Pre, wrote to say, "I have gone all over the Philippines propagating the Holy Family, sincere devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Black Nazarene. I would like to say the Divine Mercy has been good to us Filipinos.

"As servant of the Lord, I encourage everybody to have a fervent devotion to Him especially during Christmas because He saved our land, the Philippines, from tsunami and earthquake that devastated Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and other places Dec. 26, 2004. At 3 a.m., on Dec. 24, 2004, I had a dream. I saw Jesus wearing a white robe floating in the atmosphere above the Marikina River banks. Suddenly, he landed east of the river.

"[Next], I saw Jesus again, so big and tall [bathed in] dazzling light, standing before the Claro M. Recto bridge facing the road bound for Quiapo and the city hall of Manila.

"Truly, Jesus showed His endless love and compassion for us despite our weaknesses and failures. Indeed, we Filipinos are number one in His Sacred Heart throughout the whole world because of our strong faith in Him."

Words of wisdom

Fr. Orlando Sapuay, former provincial superior of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, has written inspiring one-liners for a desk calendar published by Bernadette Yap, sister of Jullie Yap-Daza. With photographs by Cecile Hidalgo Peronilla, the one-liners are designed for day-to-day reflections. To buy, please text Bernadette at 0916-8215982 or call 9326339.

Goodbye, 'Tita' Dulce

Teresita Añover Rodriguez called herself "*Tita* Dulce" when she wrote an advice column for almost 16 years in the Lifestyle section of this paper. *Tita* Dulce passed away recently due to an aneurysm. Condolence to her family and her readers.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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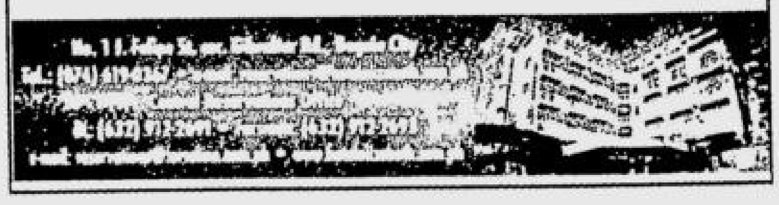

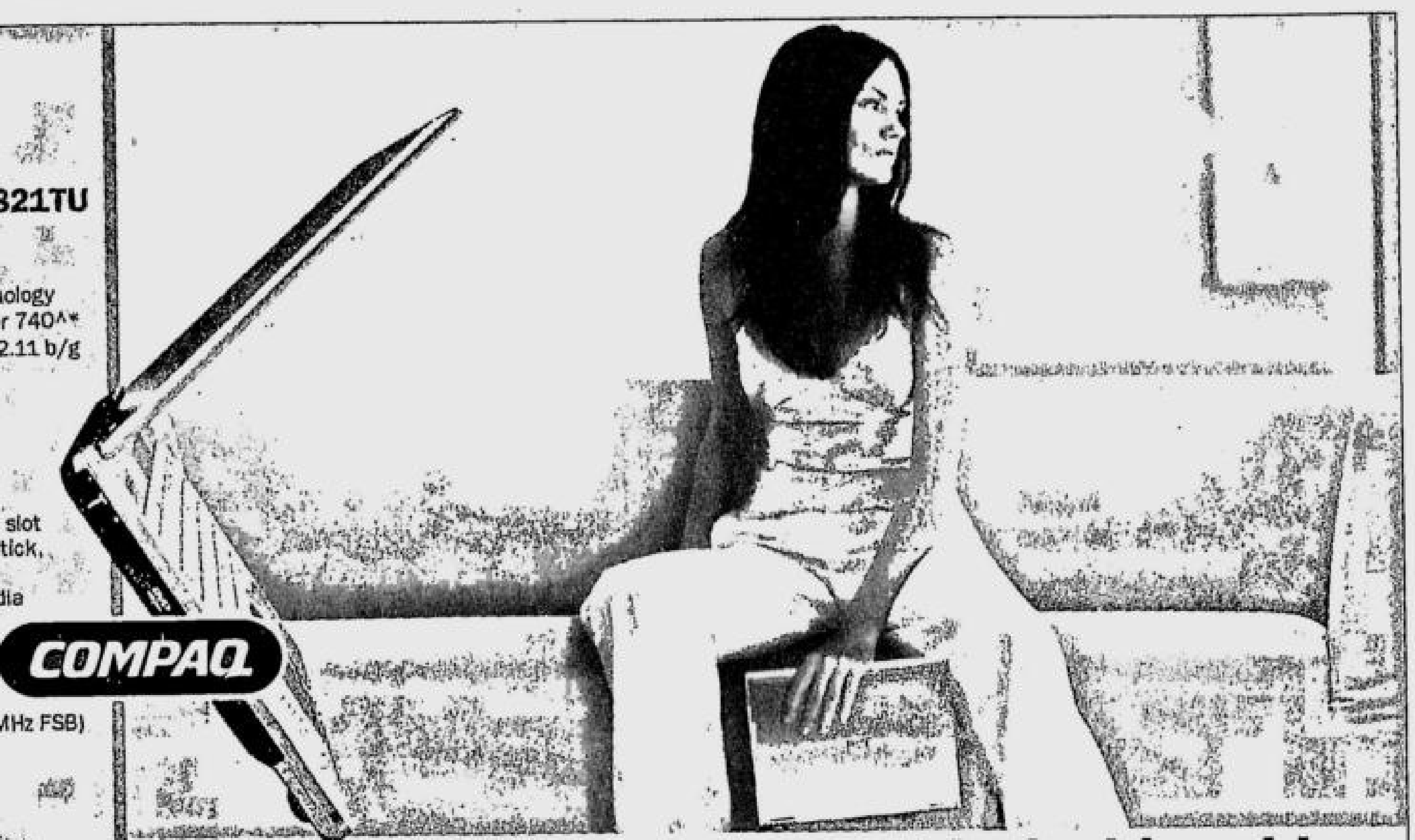

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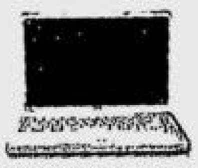

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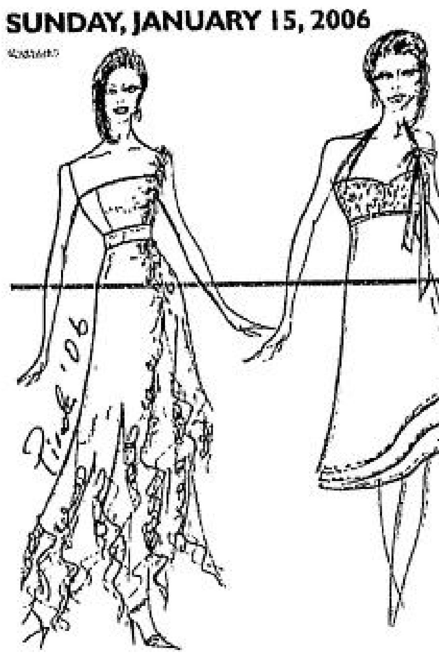


QUINTANA DEBUT

Ellia Mae Quintana, daughter of **Emilie Quintana**, celebrated yesterday her 18th birthday with a dinner dance. **Eric Pineda** designed the debutante's gown using monochromatic salmon-pink chiffon. The bodice had a single strap adorned with handmade petals and leaves pailletes and Swarovski crystals. The multi-layered skirt was interspersed with nude-colored chiffon and traced with caviar beads. She changed later to an empire-cut dress with a fully beaded bodice in lemon-yellow and chartreuse pebble georgette.

MANAPAT DEBUT

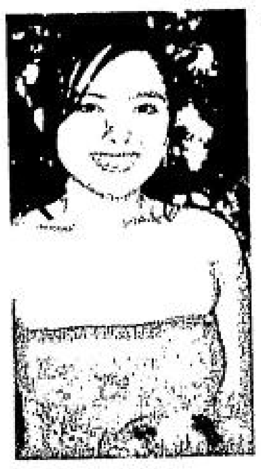
Jenel B. Manapat, daughter of **Jesus and Nelia Manapat**, recently celebrated her 18th birthday at Ibarra's Garden, Manila. She is a sophomore Communication Arts major at the University of Santo Tomas. The debutante wore a strapless pomelo-and-peach ball gown accentuated with floral bead appliqués. Video and photography was by Printshoppe Digital Studio, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

REY-GUEVARRA

Sharen Guevarra will marry **Voltaire Rey** at 3 p.m., Jan. 20, at the Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City. The bride is the daughter of **German Sr.** and **Virginia Guevarra**, while the groom is the son of **Ching Vitto-Rey**. Sharen will be wearing an **Edward Teng** creation. A garden reception follows in Albergus at Capitol Hills, Quezon City.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



URSUA DEBUT

Melanie Ann Ursua, youngest daughter of Dr. **Ronnie** and **Meriem Ursua**, celebrated recently her 18th birthday at Villa Caceres Hotel in Naga City. She is a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University taking up BS Management.

AGUILA 65TH ANNIVERSARY

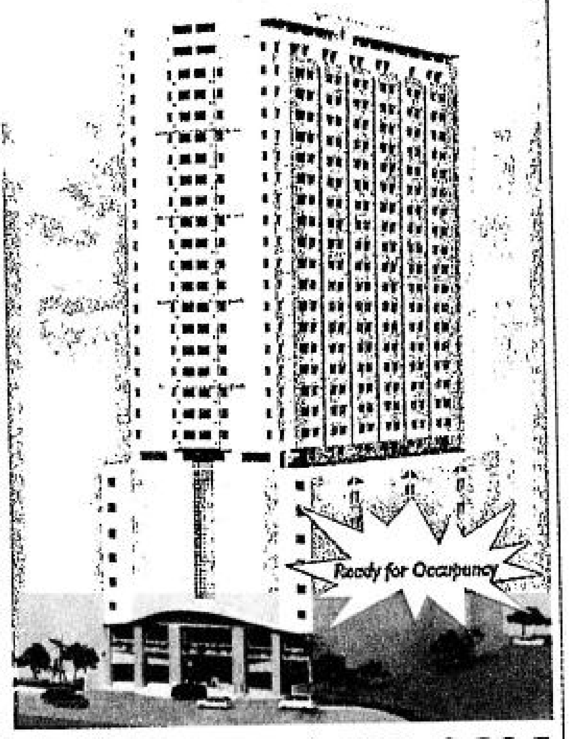
Ramon Sr. and **Lydia Aguila** celebrated recently their 65th wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows attended by their children, children-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends in Kalayaan Christian Church in Ibabao, Cuenca, Batangas.

CELINO-LOPEZ

Luis P. Celino Jr., son of **Luis Sr.** and **Teresita Celino**, will wed **Janice P. Lopez**, daughter of **Anacleto Sr.** (†) and **Gregoria Lopez**, Jan. 22, at St. Therese Parish, Dagupan City. Reception will follow at the Dagupan Garden Hotel, Lucao District, Dagupan City.

BASILA-SIMEON

Banjo M. Basila of Naic, Cavite, will wed **Faye D. Simeon** of Bamban, Tarlac, on Jan. 21, at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.



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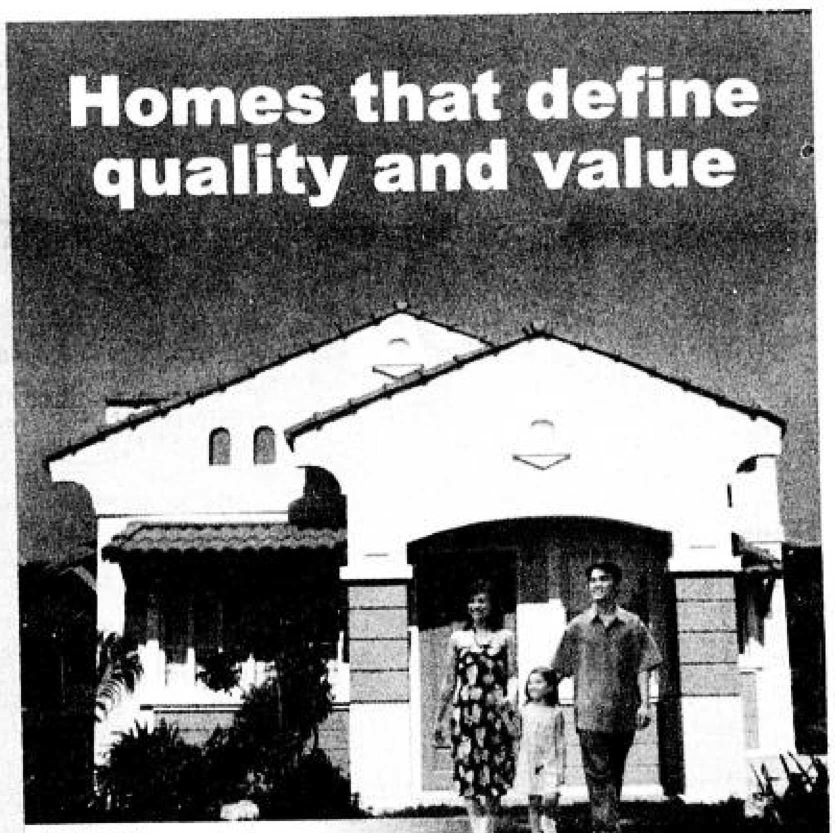

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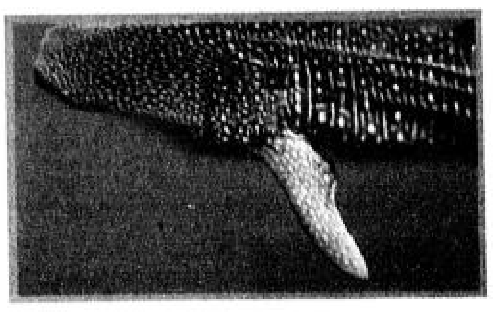
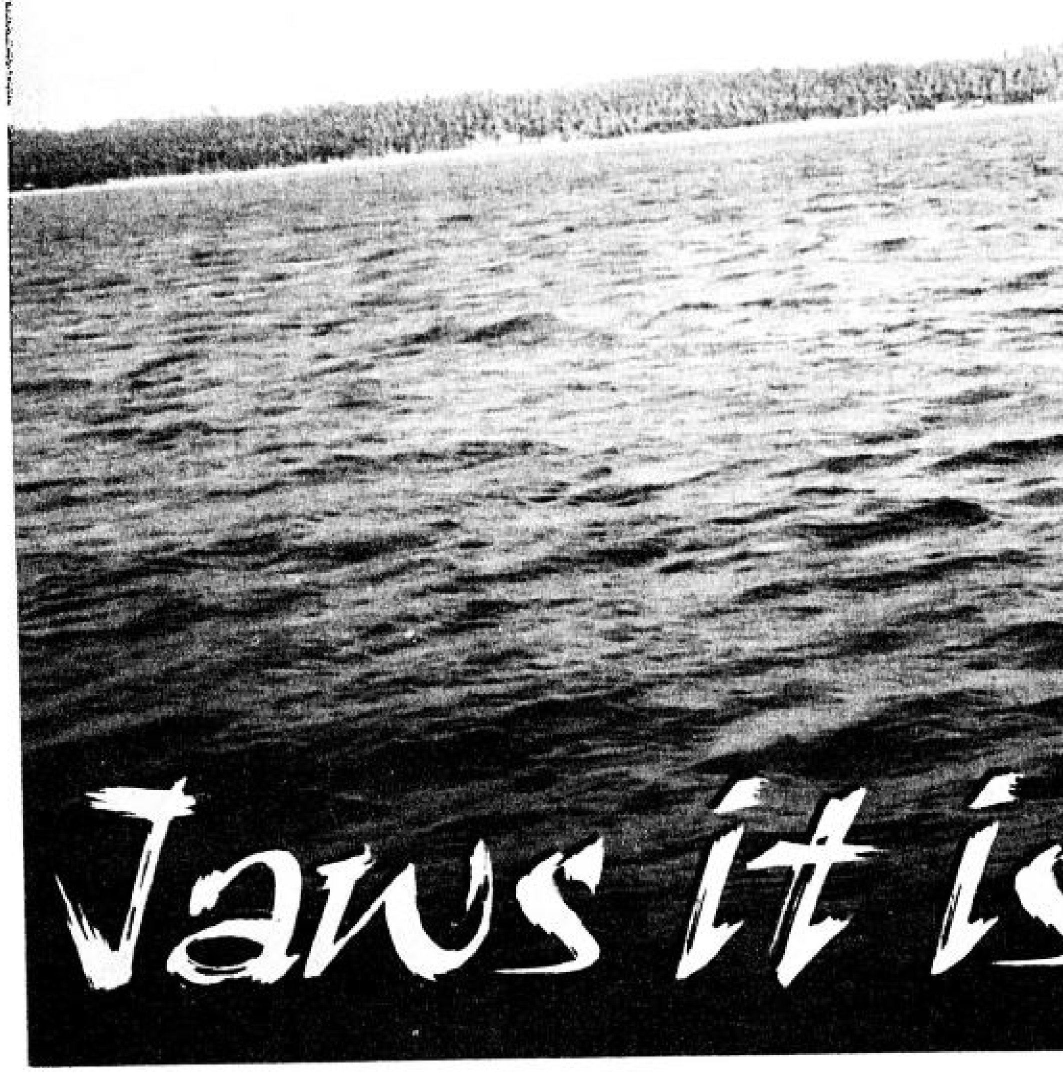
Jaws it is not

While most sharks are guaranteed to clear beaches of people, the 'butanding' is drawing tourists to Donsol


DESPITE its name, the whale shark poses no threat to anyone. WWW.KIDZONE.WS

UNLIKE many members of its family, this giant is a vegetarian. WWW.ABOUTUTILA.COM



TOO LARGE. One needs a wide-angle lens to take a picture of the whole whale shark. Photo shows the dorsal fin and back of the gentle giant. Background photo shows the Donsol shoreline. PHOTOS: NINO JACINTO

By Nino Jacinto
Contributor

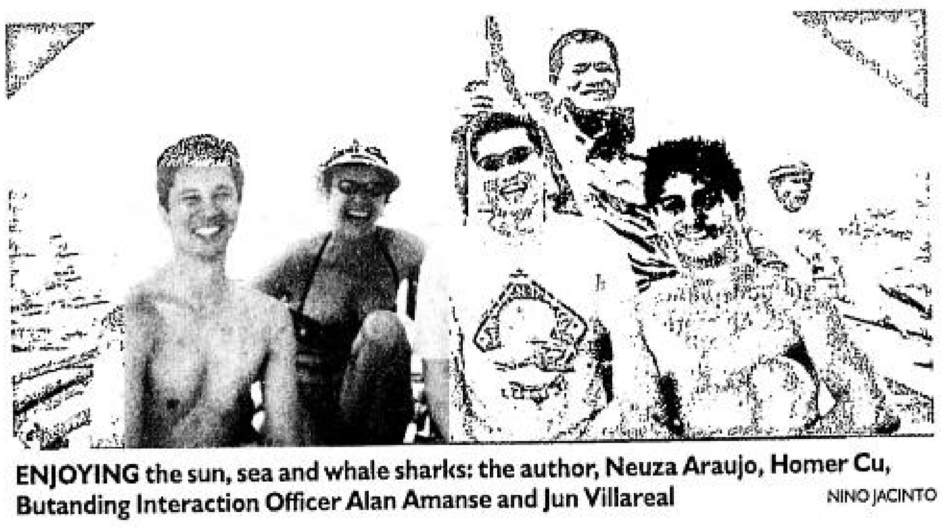
"*AYAN!*" shouted the whale-shark spotter.

We hurriedly put on our snorkels and waited to jump from the *bangka* for our first encounter with whale sharks, the gentle giants of Donsol.

A small coastal town in Sorsogon, Donsol is a 12-hour drive from Manila (another way is to fly to Legazpi City and travel by taxi for an hour).

Townsfolk say they have been seeing the whale sharks (locally known as *butanding*) for decades, but it was only starting in 1998 that *butanding* sightings in Donsol were publicized. Since then, tourists had flocked to Donsol to see the marine creatures. In the two days we were there, we met Poles, Irish, Swedes, Germans, Brazilians and Dutch.

Though called "whale shark," it is not related to the whale, a mammal. *Butanding* is a fish with gills. Like other sharks, it has several gill slits and a skeleton made of cartilage (not bone).


ENJOYING the sun, sea and whale sharks: the author, Neuza Araujo, Homer Cu, Butanding Interaction Officer Alan Amanse and Jun Villareal NINO JACINTO

The word "whale" is used simply because of its size. It can grow up to 15 meters in length and weigh up to 15 tons, making it the largest fish in the world.

Vegetarian

Despite its size, a whale shark eats mainly plankton (microscopic organisms floating in the sea). The presence of whale sharks in Donsol may be due to an abundance of plankton.

But the fish's massive size and placid nature make the whale shark an easy target for hunters. It is hunted for its meat and fins that are in demand in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

In 1998, the Philippine government enacted laws to protect whale sharks. Though no accurate figure of whale shark population is available, scientists agree the number is very low. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) considers the fish a "vulnerable" species.

As I waited to jump, I looked for signs of the presence of the whale shark. Some 20 meters from the boat, a dark shadow moved just below the surface.

As it drew near, the Butanding Interaction Officer (BIO) shouted, "*Talon!*" I followed the BIO and after about 10 seconds he stopped, looked down and pointed at something. I followed the direction of his finger but saw nothing.

Then the whale shark emerged, its blunt, flattened head about 1 ½ meter wide. I dove and swam about a meter away from it. The whale shark cruised leisurely, its tail gracefully moving. It did not seem to be bothered by six humans swimming around it.

Although it could have easily swatted us away with its huge fins, it allowed us to swim so closely that we could almost touch it.

Odd creature

I took a close look at one of the most oddly designed animals. Most of the fish's body was covered with a grid-like pattern. Inside each square of the grid was a white dot, giving its back the look of a checkerboard.

Rising to the surface, I looked at the whale shark from the top. It was truly huge. Its long pectoral fins (the fins located on both sides) looked like airplane wings. Its body was about eight meters long and 2 ½ meters wide at the mid-section.

Through the combined efforts of the community, local government, international donor agencies and concerned citizens like Carina Escudero, a dedicated environmentalist and underwater cinematographer, the *butanding* seemed to have been rescued from the brink of extinction.

Now the sight of the *butanding* can be enjoyed almost every day from November to May. During our trip in early February, we had 15 sightings in just two days.

In fact, Time magazine, in its Nov. 22, 2004 issue, said Donsol was "The Best Place for an Animal Encounter" in Asia.

E-mail the author at ninojac@pldtdsl.net

Cebu does best of Broadway

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

TWO GRAND EVENTS WERE held one day after another at the ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel. Lea Salonga featured in one, with the corresponding hype. It was a sold-out show.

But we have to say she was overshadowed by the Arts Council Goes Broadway the night before.

The show raised funds for the council's annual program of free performances by international artists and for its ambitious scholarship program.

Waterfront lent the ballroom for free, and Guam-based Cebuano director Benjie Diola slashed his fee for the dear old Arts Council.

Everyone performed for free. They were all featured in the opening number "Everything's Coming up Roses," which was very apt indeed.

Applause, applause, for Benedick Leyson, Joy Tenerife, Monette Aliño, Rhina Echivarre, Henry de Loyola, Manny Noval, Marissa Fernan, Dr. Randy Libres, Dr. Emerson Donaldo, Cebu City Vice Mayor Mike Rama, Lorraine Dytian, Francis Onglatco, Rafaelita Golez, Fr. Jun Agravante, Ma. Celeste Celeste, Bing Lim, Candice Grace Cabras, and Crystal Esmero, the council's scholar for voice.

The "Big Spender" number from "Sweet Charity" had a lot of oomph. It starred Cebu City First Lady Margot Osmeña, Arts Council president Petite Garcia, Dominique Riegel, Lotlot Neri, Mariter Klepp, Alicia Plaza, Sonia Yuvallos and Elvira Lu Ym.

Benedick and Joy did the duet "Sun and Moon" from "Miss Saigon," followed by a snappy "Surrey with a Fringe in Top" from "Oklahoma." Arts Council vice president Maxwell Espina played Will Parker. Dancing along in cowboy gear were Marget Villarica, Joan Tiu, Marielou Pitor, Alice Queblatin, Cookie Chan, Sheila Colmenares, Connie Cimafranca, and Cherry Lynn Callelero.

Chorus line

I never thought I'd do a Charleston in public but I'll do anything for the Arts Council, of which I was once president. And so there I was, Herod in "Jesus Christ Superstar," bouncing in a fringed satin robe, diamond tiara and all. What a chorus line I had, too: Arts Council VP Vivina Yrastorza, Petite, Margot, Dominique, Sonia, Alicia, Elvira, Mariter, Lotlot, Marissa Fernan, and Dr. Lydia Alfonso. My son videotaped it and we'd been laughing no end at home.

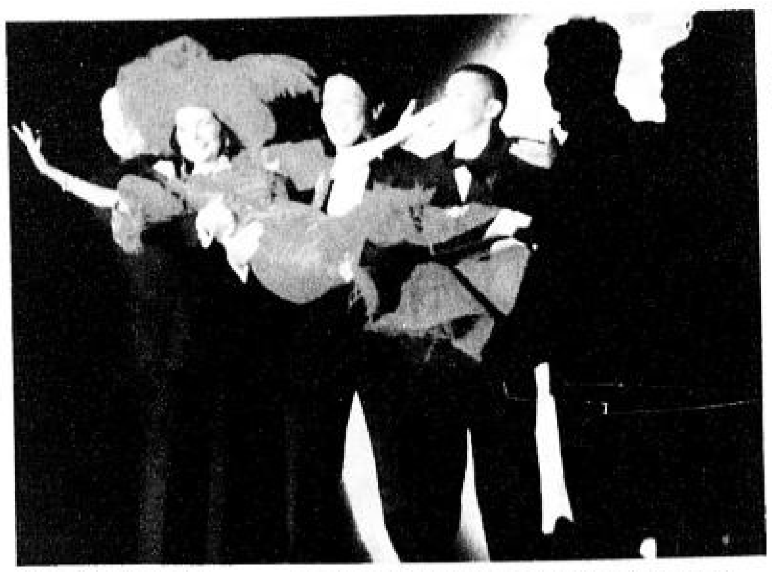
THE SHOW raised funds for the council's scholarship program, among others.

Manny Noval's dramatic medley from "Pippin" led to another rousing number, "It's A Hard-Knocked Life" from "Annie." Vivina, Dominique, Elena Young, Margot, Joan, Marielou, Alice, Cookie, Sheila, Connie, Cherry Lynn and Mariter were the most impish orphans ever, pillow-fighting and having a romp. Entered Annie. It was hilarious with Karl Hudson, GM of the Marriott Hotel, in a skimpy red skirt, showing tight bloomers beneath. The song: "Tomorrow," what else?

Marissa and Dr. Donaldo stole the show with their rendition of "Till There Was You" from "The Music Man."

The audience swooned and hummed, and some even followed the lyrics of "Hello Dolly." Teresin M. glided about in red gossamer specially made by Arcy Gayatin, a plumed hat daintily perched on her golden hair. Completing the showstopper were tuxedo-clad Marco, Winglip Chang, Clint Escaño, JP Mendoza, Jaime Chua, Manny N, Dr. Donaldo, Fr. Agravante, and Omar Espina.

Architect Tessie Javier, Margot O., Petite and Joan formed the girl quartet for "Greased Lightning" that brought the house down. The jeans-clad guys: Rogelio Alayre, Jace Maggallanes, Marlon Flores, Allan Nalla, Arnel Gamboa and Mark Lester Loroño.


THE AUDIENCE swooned and hummed, and some even followed the lyrics of "Hello Dolly."

Showcased

Rhina Echivarre's soprano was showcased in "Think of Me" from "Phantom of the Opera." She also did a beautiful duet with Vice Mayor Mike R.—"Fallin'" from "They're Playing Our Song."

A revelation was Monette Aliño, in shimmering red, doing aria-style, "What Kind of Fool Am I?" from "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off."

Another soprano, Candice, scored well with her solo, "With One Look" from "Sunset Boulevard."

Then it was time for a high-powered scene from South Pacific. Elena, Mariter, Vivina, Dominique, Petite, Elvira, Sonia, Marissa and Margot donned white ducks and caps as sailors in "There Is Nothing Like a Dame." They seemed to be having loads of fun.

A series of love duets followed: Lorraine and Francis, as Tup Tim and Lun Tha from "King and I"; Oche Golez and Fr. Jun, as Queen Guinevere and Lancelot from "Camelot"; Ma. Celeste and Randy, as Maria and Tony from "West Side Story"; Bing and Crystal in scenes from "Jekyll and Hyde."

Well applauded

A powerful anti-climax was "What a Circus" from "Evita," with Mariquita Yeung as Che Guevara and the show director Benjie doing Eva Peron to perfection. Many did not recognize him. Tessie Javier and Eric Berdon were applauded for their wild tango. The Sandiego Dancers completed the cast.

Everyone appeared on stage for the finale—"Ease on Down the Road" from "The Wiz," dressed in jeans painted like the yellow brick road and shining under the lights.

Margot O. was impish as Dorothy, Vice Mayor Mike was the most handsome Lion, Marco was the Tin Man, and Randy, the Scarecrow, which he definitely isn't with his good looks and sunny disposition.

After curtain call, the cast, still in costume and makeup, mingled with the audience to receive hugs, kisses and general congratulations.

How much did we make? Secret, someone said. Enough, winked another.

'Swarm' your garbage problems

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION Master Plan or SWARM Plan started two years ago as an information and education campaign to address waste management problems of the country, particularly Metro Manila.

It was the result of initiatives by Dr. Angelina P. Galang, executive director of the Environmental Studies Institute of Miriam College (Miriam-ESI), who invited representatives from the academic and government sectors, nongovernment organizations and environmentalists to planning sessions to search for solutions to the city's never-ending garbage problems.

The main thrust of SWARM Plan is to reduce the amount of waste that must be collected on a regular basis and, when possible, recycle and reuse it as compost to help boost the food supply of individual families.

To get things going, SWARM Plan held a summit meeting Nov. 30-Dec. 1 at Le Pavilion, Roxas Blvd., corner Edsa, Metropolitan Park, Pasay City. The plan aims to reduce the total volume of waste by at least 60 percent, at the same time encourage urban gardening with the use of compost. Composting in handy receptacles in home yards will not only assure a steady food supply for the family but added income as well.

Practical, profitable

SWARM Plan is supported by statistical data and studies along economic lines that show it to be not only doable but even, to some extent, profitable.

Some of the facts presented to summit participants were: Metro Manila consisted of 17 local government units (LGUs) and was home to more than 12 million Filipinos.

A publication of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "The Garbage Book," put the current per capita waste generation rate at 360 grams daily. "In the next 30 years, the National Capital Region will generate over 70 million tons of a mammoth volume of 70 billion kilos of solid waste."

The book projected that these figures would require 21.5 million truck trips, an undertaking best understood perhaps if we visualized the trucks moving in one line. They would be able to go around Earth three times or reach halfway to the moon.

That picture was made more disturbing by another fact: "Since the approximate land area of Metro Manila is 630 sq km or 630 million sq m, the amount of garbage generated—70 million tons—equates to a knee-deep layer of waste over the entire metropolis."

Billions annually

To collect, transport and dispose of waste wherever it is still allowed to be dumped, the 17 LGUs of Metro Manila appropriate public funds that come up to P295 per capita or P3.54 billion annually. But with the shutdown of some dumpsites and the costly construction of sanitary landfills, the problem continues to be alarming.

Acting on those problems is clearly the need of the moment, which is why the SWARM Plan was launched. It received an initial, modest funding from the government and, with this, the group concentrated its first efforts on those sectors identified as the biggest generators of waste in Metro Manila.

Besides Miriam-ESI, which is responsible for contacting schools, SWARM Plan members include Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines Foundation Inc., responsible for subdivisions; Mother Earth Foundation, for barangays; Ayala Foundation, for commercial centers; Polystyrene Packaging Council of the Philippines, for business centers; and Concerned Citizens against Pollution, for wet markets.

For more information, contact Alma Arcena at 5805400 (local 3560), 9205093 (direct) or 4359240 to 46 (local 266).

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com.

GRAND TOURS of 2006
20-22 Jan. BANAUE *Rice Terraces* TOUR
(w/ Sagada, Bontoc , Banga-an Village, Guihob Natural Pool)
27-29 Jan. ILOCOS TOUR w/ Pagudpud
(+Manaoag,VIGAN, Batac,Sarrat,Paoay, LAOAG)
3-5 Feb. BICOL & SORSOGON Rediscovery
(Lake & Cave,hot spring resort, Mt. Mayon, Cave, Tiwi & Naga)
25-26 Feb BAGUIO *Flower Festival* 2006
23-26 Feb CAGAYAN VALLEY & ILOCOS REGION
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Latest in laundry technology

MIELE'S unique technology reduces breakage of delicate fibers.

GERMAN PREMIUM HOME APPLIance maker Miele (pronounced Meele) joined recently the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) in holding "Carnevale di Venezia" at the NBC Tent at Fort Bonifacio Global City for the benefit of the National Museum.

Miele presented its latest innovations in laundry technology meant to take care of the most delicate and expensive fabrics. Its initial line of washing machines for the Philippine market—the W2104 Softronic Washing Machine, the W2584 WPS Allerwash Washing Machine, and the W2888 WPS Navitronic Washing Machine—were showcased with Ethan Allen furniture in a boudoir setting at the foyer of the NBC tent. Guests had an opportunity to show their costumes and have their pictures taken in the Miele area.

The premium washers are meant to give the very best care to elegant clothing. With Miele's unique honeycomb drum, a thin film of water cushions the garments from the drum, thus reducing breakage of delicate fibers and pilling.

The masquerade ball raised the target amount for the National Museum. Miele made the night even more special by giving a Best in Costume award for the person with the most elegant attire. The award went to Lolita Escobar-Mirpuri, founder-president of the Makati Ladies Executive Club.

Founded in Germany in 1899, Miele is a pioneer in automated laundry technology. In 1901, it built the first wooden-tub washer and has since led the way in laundry technology. In 1978, it came out with the world's first computer-controlled washing machine and tumble dryer with electronic sensors. Today, it boasts of being the first to use a PC-update function and a program for hand-washable woolens.

Miele is exclusively distributed by Focus Global Inc., with showroom located at Pioneer corner Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City. Showroom is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Sundays, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call 6348587.

Workshop on cement pot-making

A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP ON cement pot-making will be conducted by Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla 1-6 p.m., Jan. 21-22, at Metts Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Each participant will make three projects—a flower vase, pot for bonsai or dish garden or catch basin for waterfall, and a stand. All materials will be provided. Participants get a certificate at the end of the workshop.

On Jan. 29, a hands-on workshop on miniature landscaping and gardening inside glass cases called terrarium will be held. Both plant arts are intended for indoor decoration. Care and maintenance of indoor plants will also be discussed. All materials will be provided.

Early registration is required. Call 9394593, 4352479 or 0917-8321352.

metropolitan

welcomes 2006
with **Gary Valenciano**.

January 17, 2006
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Show starts 8:30
Metropolitan Athletic Club [MAC]
Estrella corner Amapola sts. Makati City

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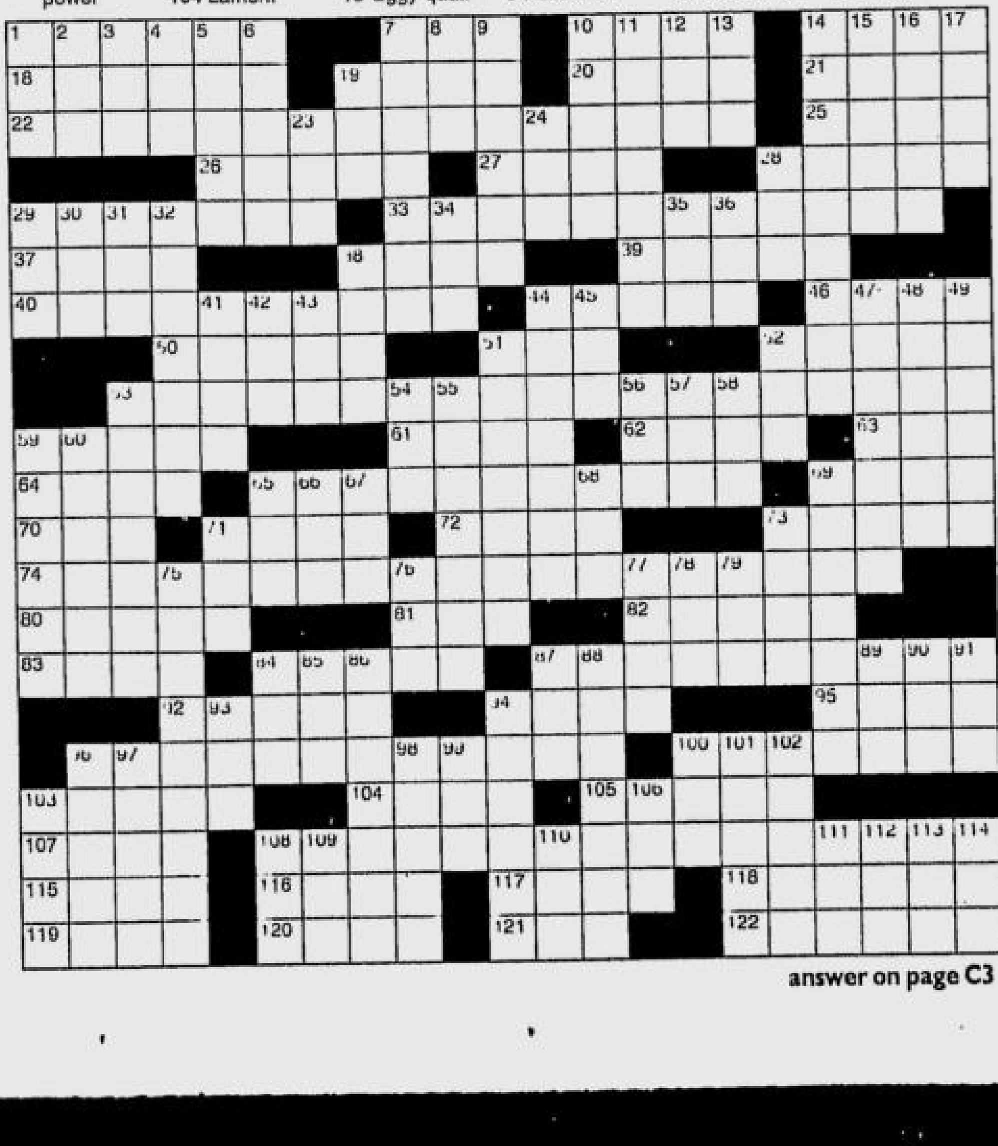
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

CIVIL RIGHTS

ACROSS
1 Tristan's love
7 Light pat
10 Figure skater Michelle
14 Rug type
18 Implant anew
19 Caruso solo
20 Pisa's river
21 — vault
22 "Make sense?"
25 Jim Croce's "— a Name"
26 Temptress
27 Trudge
28 Liszt or Kafka
29 "That isn't fair, your honor!"
33 "Dallas" spin-off
37 Oahu feast
38 Partiality
39 Put out
40 South Korean president, 1998-2003
44 Howled like a wolf
46 Risk or Clue
50 Cross as —
51 Scull, say
52 To the third power
53 Throwing a tantrum
59 Bern citizen
61 With, to Gigi
62 Saucy
63 Pres. called "Ike"
64 "Stop!"
65 #1 hit for the Buckinghams
69 Stadium level
70 100%
71 "— pity!"
72 Singer Natalie
73 Available money
74 Doesn't let the momentum fade
80 French river
81 Strange
82 Geoffrey of fashion
83 Billionth: Prefix
84 Myopic cartoon "Mr."
87 Jazz trombonist
92 Mosaicist
94 Boor
95 AOL patron, e.g.
96 Canadian figure skater
100 Book unit
103 Ruined
104 Lament
105 Merger
107 Shirt brand
108 2005 Robert Downey Jr. crime comedy
115 Not any
116 Stuck in —
117 "— Kett"
118 Newton-John of "Grease"
119 Prod
120 Get on film
121 Evian, e.g.
122 Relate anew

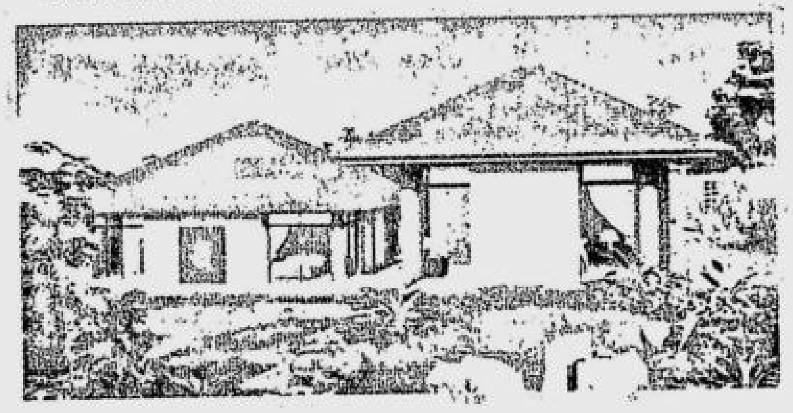
DOWN
1 Really ruffle
2 D.C. figure
3 Acapulco gold
4 Despicable
5 Use a divining rod
6 Moral principle
7 Savor via the senses
8 Zero in
9 Deep-voiced singers
10 Sends to the canvas
11 Chicago's — Field
12 Actress Jillian
13 Eggy quaff
14 Beard-attaching glue
15 Wrestler Hulk
16 Parallel to
17 Stan of jazz sax
19 Had lunch
23 Craft
24 Supermodel Carol
28 New Deal pres.
29 Variety
30 Yes, abroad
31 "Socko!"
32 Observant Jew
34 Pester
35 Adz kin
36 Writer Buntline
38 Scorch
41 Essentials
42 Comics cry
43 Alai lead-in
44 Reason to razz the ref
45 "— longa ..."
47 Steadfast
48 Fixed
49 Gardeners' gizmos
51 Not divided up
52 String chaser
53 City north of Austin
54 Gallivant
55 Green hue
56 Lifesaving technique
57 Stephen of "Princess Caraboo"
58 Bit of work
59 "Whole Lot of — Going On"
60 Labor leader Lech
65 With 108-Down, Nestle candy bar
66 Suffix with boy
67 Highland refusal
68 Bonn article
69 Made run better, as an engine
71 Mao — -tung
73 Oulu native
75 Jutted out
76 "— -hiss!"
77 Passing notice
78 Actor Ayres
79 Muumuu accessory
84 Tigers' and Cubs' gp.
85 — Lingus
86 Matures
87 — -Tiki
88 Maine's capital
89 Ideal finish?
90 Born
91 Kennel warning
93 "Addams Family" cousin
94 Easter blooms
96 Musical toy
97 "Once — time ..."
98 Garbage
99 Suffix with peace
100 "S*P*Y*S" org.
101 Prestige
102 It may be acute
103 Civil rights pioneer divided at the beginning and end of nine answers in this puzzle
106 Lakers' org.
108 See 65-Down
109 Dramatist Levin
110 Indy 500 sponsor
111 Iota
112 "Hi, Hadrian!"
113 Not any
114 Missy



answer on page C3

Seaside Life at Anvaya Cove

Nothing beats the experience of a premium residential seaside home- the ultimate in luxury living. The prospect of views, cool breezes, and access to a wide sandy beachfront seem to be stuff that movies are made of. The discriminating few who have traveled the world and have been to the best leisure destinations abroad will be gratified to know that such an idyllic lifestyle can actually be experienced not only in foreign places but in areas of our very own nature-rich Philippines.



Ayala Land Premier's Anvaya Cove near Subic Bay is where such a slice of paradise can be had. The 320-hectare development in Morong, Bataan boasts of three natural coves and various other natural attractions and built amenities. The heart of the development is the Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club, where members can enjoy first class facilities and overnight accommodations. For those who seek to enjoy a more permanent second home in this nature-rich site, there are residential lots in neighborhoods thoughtfully integrated into the natural environment. The newest introduction is the development's prime residential offering of 17 exclusive pre-constructed seaside villas, which are located a short walk away from the beach.

The Seaside Villas epitomize the ideal Anvaya Cove home. Developed together with renowned local architectural and design firm, LV Locsin and Partners, the villas are set on luxuriously large lot cuts and exhibit the signature Anvaya Cove Asian Tropical design that complements and blends with the natural surroundings. Each villa is composed of dual structures with deck and plunge pool.

Its close proximity to the main cove and Beach & Nature Club provides the Seaside Villas with spectacular views and immediate access to the club's numerous amenities and activities. The services provided upon request will ensure a convenient and effortless luxury living experience.

With Ayala Land's reputation for excellence in property management, the Seaside Villas are sure to be sound investments that will stand the test of time. Like the unforgettable family bonding experiences that will be formed within them, the Seaside Villas will be treasured legacies for generations to come.

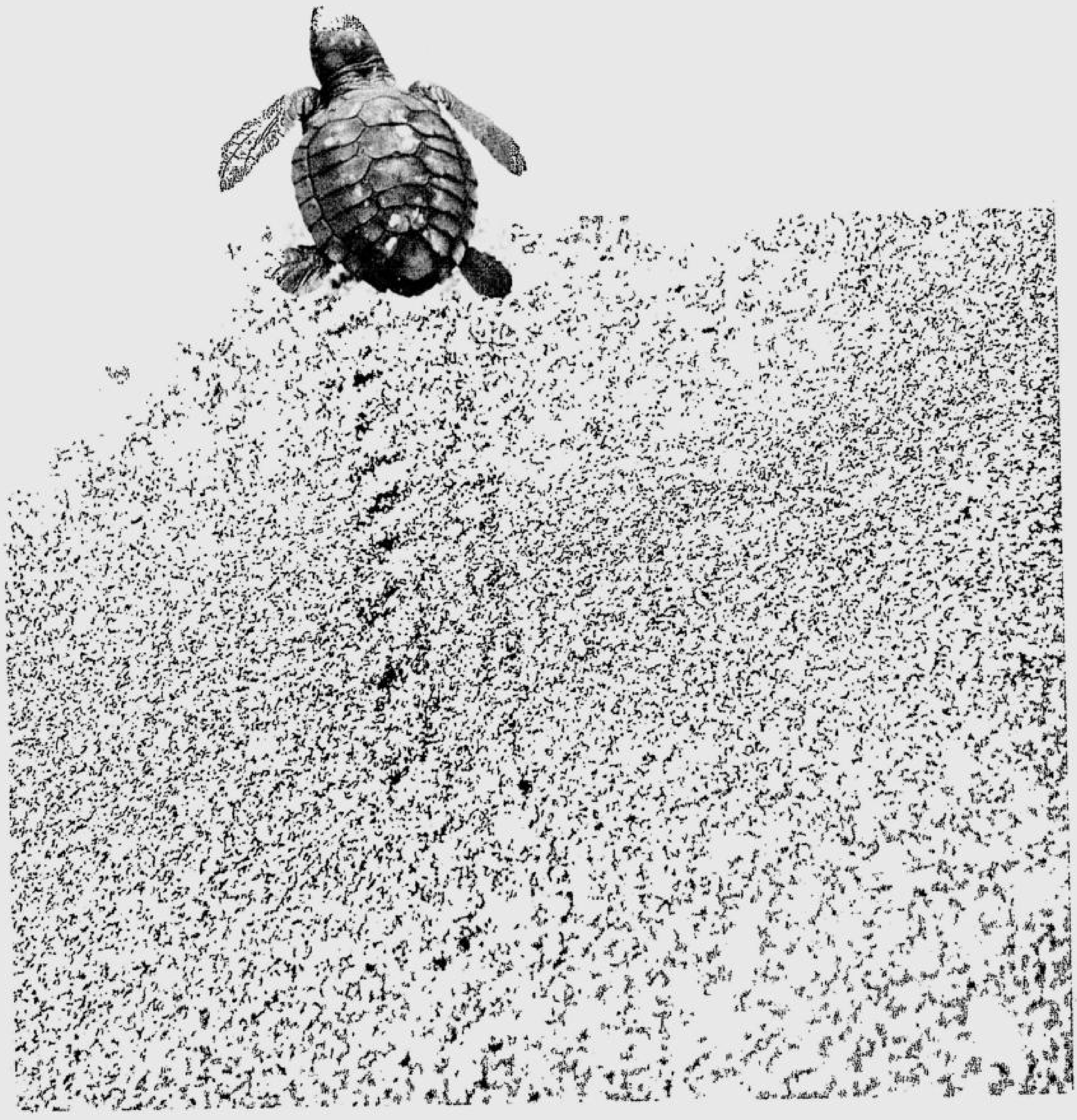
Purchase of a seaside villa or a residential lot in Anvaya Cove will require membership in the Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club. Set in the blue waters of the the Subic Bay at the foothills of Bataan the site is an idyllic vacation place for both land and water activities.

Kids and adults alike will enjoy the main club café, music lounge, and function rooms. The wine room is set apart for more intimate events. Summer fun is a sure thing with the varied experiences offered in the swimming pool complex and kiddie village. For activities on land, there is a Great Lawn for picnics or sport activities best played on soft, inviting grass such as frisbee throwing, kite-flying and a friendly game of soccer. There is also a lagoon for lazy afternoons of fishing or rowing. Overnight accommodations will be available for members and their guests.

At the main beach cove, the Pawikan beach bar and grille provides food and recreation for gatherings near the sea. A lookout tower provides architectural and visual interest as well. For more adventurous pursuits, Anvaya Cove's well-trained staff will provide assisted ecosystem explorations. Families and groups of friends can interact spontaneously with nature as well, venturing out on their own on biking paths and hiking trails. Activities are endless at Anvaya Cove and its natural surroundings.

Learn more about how you can live the luxurious seaside life at Anvaya Cove by calling 728-7000 or sending an e-mail to anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph. Visit its official website at www.anvayacove.com. Its Makati showroom is located at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center Makati near Italianni's restaurant, with telephone number 892-3333.

When I saw my daughter's eyes widen at the sight of the baby pawikan, I realized that life's biggest event was in the moment! That look was priceless and I was changed forever.



Experiences made extraordinary. Anvaya Cove is a sanctuary to weary city folks as it is to some animals unique to this area located in Morong, Bataan; only 20 minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport. Annually, *pawikan* hatchlings find their way back to the shore while migrating Mallard ducks fly inland to seek respite from the cold season.

In the heart of this enviable, exclusive leisure community is the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club, designed for bonding and unique experiences that all family members can share.

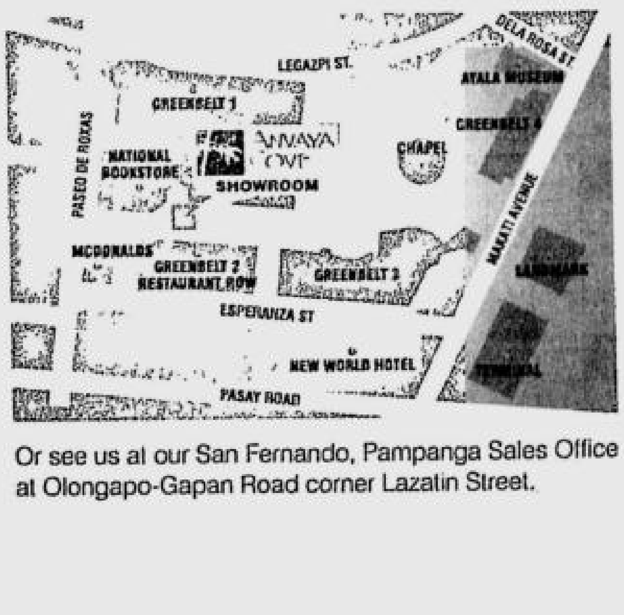
Own a slice of paradise and dare to live the life you've always wanted. Select a residential lot where you can build your dream vacation home or own a luxurious seaside villa.

In your search for the ideal second home, there is absolutely no leisure community in the country that is as warm and inviting for your family as Anvaya Cove.

By Ayala Land, naturally.

THE MANGO GROVE, ANVAYA COVE'S SECOND NEIGHBORHOOD IS NOW OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS.

Visit our Greenbelt Showroom at the Greenbelt 2 Garden, near Italianni's and Segafredo and learn more about this dream vacation home.



Or see us at our San Fernando, Pampanga Sales Office at Olongapo-Gapan Road corner Lazatin Street.

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The particulars, details and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans which have been prepared with utmost care and given in good faith, buyers are invited to verify their factual correctness and subsequent changes, if any. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract. HLURB License to Sell Nos.: 12469 & 13414, SEC Registration Order No. 067, Series of 2005.

City of Santa Rosa, rising investment hub

The City of Santa Rosa now enjoys the stature as the Rising Investment Capital of South Luzon, being an established industrial center which hosts major industrial estates and business firms of international caliber. Dubbed as the "Little Detroit of the Philippines", it has the greatest concentration of car manufacturers and assemblers in the country. And aside from being tagged as the "Little Silicon Valley of the Philippines" due to its high concentration of semiconductor and electronic companies, the City is now being developed as the newest IT hub country with the opening of the Ayala Information Technology Park, the future center for business processes outsourcing and software development. There are also large-scale residential communities, commercial and recreational facilities such as the Laguna Bel Air, Enchanted Kingdom and Santa Elena Golf Club and the soon-to-open SM City Santa Rosa, one of the biggest in this part of the country. These enterprises strengthen Santa Rosa's status as a rapidly modernizing residential, commercial and industrial community in South Luzon.

The rapid industrialization of Santa Rosa is indeed best represented by an array of premiere commercial, business and industrial estates, which significantly transformed its old rural landscape. Its three industrial estates, namely: Laguna Technopark Inc, Santa Rosa Business Park and Meridian Industrial Complex accelerate the continued growth of the City

All of these we have attained because we have the qualities of a community which is conducive for business. The City of Santa Rosa is a strategic and ideal place for local and foreign entrepreneurs due to its proximity to major business centers, international seaports, airports and leisure and recreational facilities. It is also endowed with natural resources, cooler breezes with abundant rainfall, soil with good water-bearing characteristics, which is an abundant source of high-quality potable water for residential, commercial and industrial uses. We have flat, fertile and irrigable land areas, which is suitable to almost all agricultural endeavors. And more, the City boasts of much lower cost of land relative to other major cities.

Our human resources are world-class; our infrastructure, energy and telecommunication facilities are sufficient. Banks and financial Institutions are ample; peace and order situation is stable and industrial climate is peaceful due to local government consultative mechanisms. There is also a strong partnership between the local government and the business sector through the Santa Rosa City Business Club Inc and other business groups which are more than willing to lend support to the development initiatives of this administration. Similarly, the local government is run by a strong and dynamic management team which is driven by a potent combination of experience and youthful creativity.

To welcome the year with a good start, we have also launched the Santa Rosa Expo 2006, a coordinated series of activities from Jan. 9 to 18, 2006. It aims to display the best that Santa Rosa can offer as an investment and cultural destination. Highlights include the first Santa Rosa Auto Show, where the latest models of Santa Rosa-based automotive corporations are exhibited. Another first is the Bayanihan Foundation Parade, a street fest epitomizing the outstanding *bayanihan* spirit of the Filipino people.

Indeed, the Santa Rosa Expo 2006 provides a good start. And we are confident that for the rest of the year, we shall show that we have what it takes to be dubbed as the Investment Capital in Southern Luzon.

JOSE B. CATINDIG, JR.
City Mayor

THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA IS A STRATEGIC GATEWAY TO Metropolitan Manila as well as to other provinces of the Calabarzon sub-region. From a 4th class municipality, Santa Rosa became a 1st class town in 1993 and was then declared as a city on July 10, 2004.

Host to several industrial estates

Santa Rosa currently houses three globally competitive industrial estates, namely: Laguna Technopark which is the first industrial estate in the Philippines, Santa Rosa Business Park and Meridian Industrial Complex.

The Laguna Technopark Inc is a joint venture between Ayala Land Inc (the country's premiere property developer) and two world-renowned Japanese corporations, Mitsubishi Corp and Kawasaki Steel Corp. The 387-hectare site houses international companies such as Golay Buchel, Henkel, Hitachi, Honda, International Distillers, Isuzu, Matsushita, TDK, Fujitsu Ten, Toshiba and Trilux.

There is also the Santa Rosa Business Park, a 260-hectare integrated commercial, business and industrial park located in Barangay Don Jose. Among its major components as a premiere commercial project are the Greenfield Industrial Center, Laguna Central Business District, Paseo de Santa Rosa, Country Market and Greenfield Automotive Park, where prominent companies such as Ford, Visteon Corp and Automotive Interior Corp are settled.

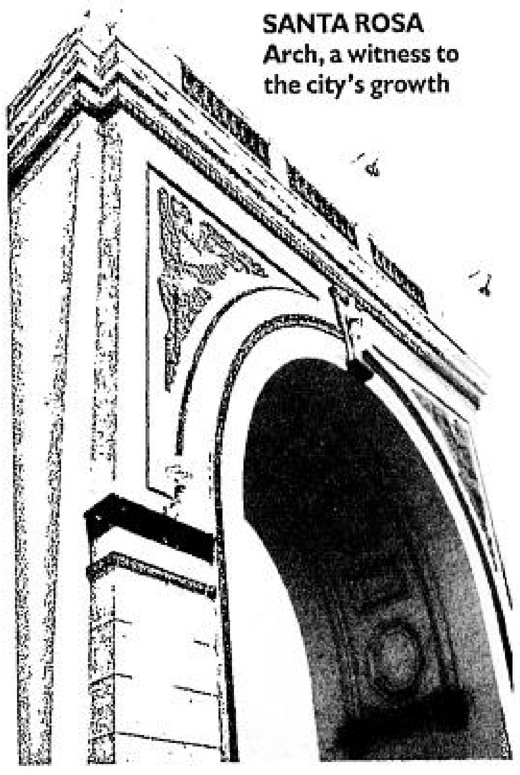
Meanwhile, the 20-hectare Meridian Industrial Complex also has its share of light to medium industries such as assembly plants and warehouses involving electrical parts, soap, furniture and décor, insulators and adhesives, construction and medicine.

Home of big automotive, semiconductor and ICT companies

Known as the "Detroit of the Philippines," Santa Rosa houses six automotive companies located in the country: Toyota, Ford, Nissan, Honda, Star Motor and Columbian Motors, which account for 85 percent of local automotive production.

Meanwhile, 30 percent of total electronics exports (semiconductors, hard disk drives, laptops and consumer appliances) come from Santa Rosa. Some of the ICT (information communication technology) companies located in the city are Fujitsu Ten, TDK, National Panasonic, Toshiba, Amkor-Anam and Integrated Microelectronics. Infonxx, the premier provider of directory assistance and enhanced information services, had just recently inaugurated its contact center facility, the first to rise in the city. Hence, Santa Rosa has also been dubbed as the "Silicon Valley of the Philippines".

The presence of leading manufacturers and companies only attest that the demands of these industries are met and that Santa Rosa has what it takes to lead the competition.



SANTA ROSA Arch, a witness to the city's growth

Quality facilities and support services

Santa Rosa boasts of a complete line of facilities (power, communications, water, transportation, infrastructure) and support services (residential subdivisions, schools, malls/leisure areas, banks, hospitals and a competitive workforce) required for the existence and expansion of any business. Hence, doing business in Santa Rosa provides a conducive business environment for a profitable business venture. And there are still plenty of vacant lots to welcome newcomers.

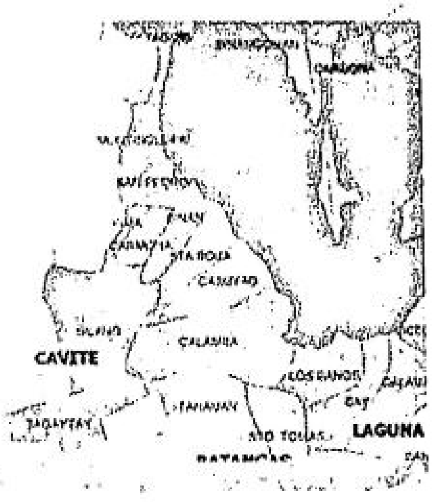
There is uninterrupted power in Santa Rosa and connectivity is never a problem owing to the operation of Digitel, PLDT, Laguna Net, Pacific Net and Infocom, which provide phone and Internet services.

Santa Rosa has ample source of ground water, which can provide water for potable, commercial and industrial use. Besides the fact that the South Luzon Expressway, a major artery to the south, straddles along the heart of Santa Rosa, there is also an excellent network of high-grade concrete national, provincial and *barangay* roads for an efficient roadway system. Transportation service is well provided by bus companies, taxis, shuttles, freighters and forwarders and jeepneys routing all major destination points in Metro Manila and Calabarzon. Air transport at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is just 1.5 hours away. Sea transport on the other hand is but within two hours travel time either to the Batangas Port or Manila Port.

More than a hundred and twenty residential subdivisions dart Santa Rosa's landscape, ranging from high-end subdivisions (Laguna Bel Air, Santa Rosa Estates, Terra Fortuna, La Residencia, Fontanamara, Belle Reve, Promenade etc), mid-range subdivisions and city government socialized housing units.

Schools and universities in all levels can be found within and near Santa Rosa. To name a few are Perpetual Help University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Santa Rosa Extension, De La Salle University-Canlubang, Don Bosco, Adventist University, Laguna Bel-Air-Philippine Science, Dominican School, San Pedro College of Business and Arts, Pamantasan ng Cabuyao and St. Scholastica's College-Westgrove. Soon to follow, too, are branches of the University of Santo Thomas and University of Asia and the Pacific.

There are lots of shopping malls and supermarkets to choose from in Santa Rosa, namely: Robinsons Place, Target Mall, Walter Mart, South Supermarket, Paseo de Santa Rosa, Country Market, Rustan's Supermarket and the soon-to-open SM City Santa Rosa. Within these malls are a long list of fast food chains, bars and restaurants leisure seekers may choose from. Golf enthusiasts may choose from two world-class golf courses, the Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club and the Country Club where the recent Asean Games were held. Santa Rosa is also but an hour away from the leisure areas of the Tagaytay Highlands, the beaches of Batangas or the hot springs of Calamba and the greenery of Los Baños.



Complementary to the 2,961 registered business establishments in the city as of August 2005, a total of 31 commercial banks, 14 rural banks and three government banks are scattered along the city's commercial districts.

Hospital facilities are just a ride away in Santa Rosa, which houses six secondary and tertiary hospitals, namely: Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center, Saint James Hospital, Santa Rosa Community Hospital, Balibago Polyclinic Hospital, Santa Rosa Hospital and Medical Center and the soon-to-rise New Sinai MDI Hospital.

Santa Rosa, too, boasts of a competitive workforce. The combined strength of the city's educated workers and professionals number 100,000 and growing.

Business-friendly city government

The City Government of Santa Rosa recognizes the crucial role of the business community in promoting job creation, local economic stability and the delivery of basic services to the city's constituency. Hence, in Santa Rosa, the business sector is considered as a partner in local governance. The newly founded Santa Rosa City Business Club (SRCBC) enjoys the accommodation and coordination of the different branches of the city government. The SRCBC, together with the city government's Investment Promotions Group, regularly holds consultation and planning sessions in directing the thrust of the government and business sector towards holistic development.

Low cost of doing business

But more than high-quality facilities and support services, Santa Rosa also boasts of lower costs of doing business and investment incentives. Incentives include income tax holidays, tax and duty exemptions and simplified import and export procedures, among others. Daily minimum wage is provincial and much lower than Metro Manila rates. The cost of land, too, is much lower than other established cities. Power and communication costs are competitive and rates for office space and land lease are much lower than in Metro Manila. And these only mean more profitability for business.

Santa Rosa is indeed the next best stop for growing business and investment down south. Come, then, and grow with us…

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Introducing the New Ford Escape NBX Limited Edition.

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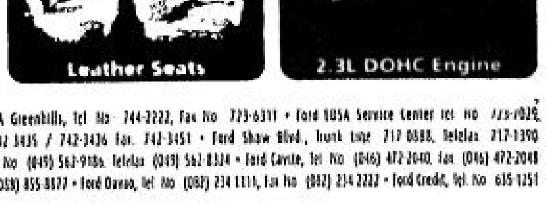

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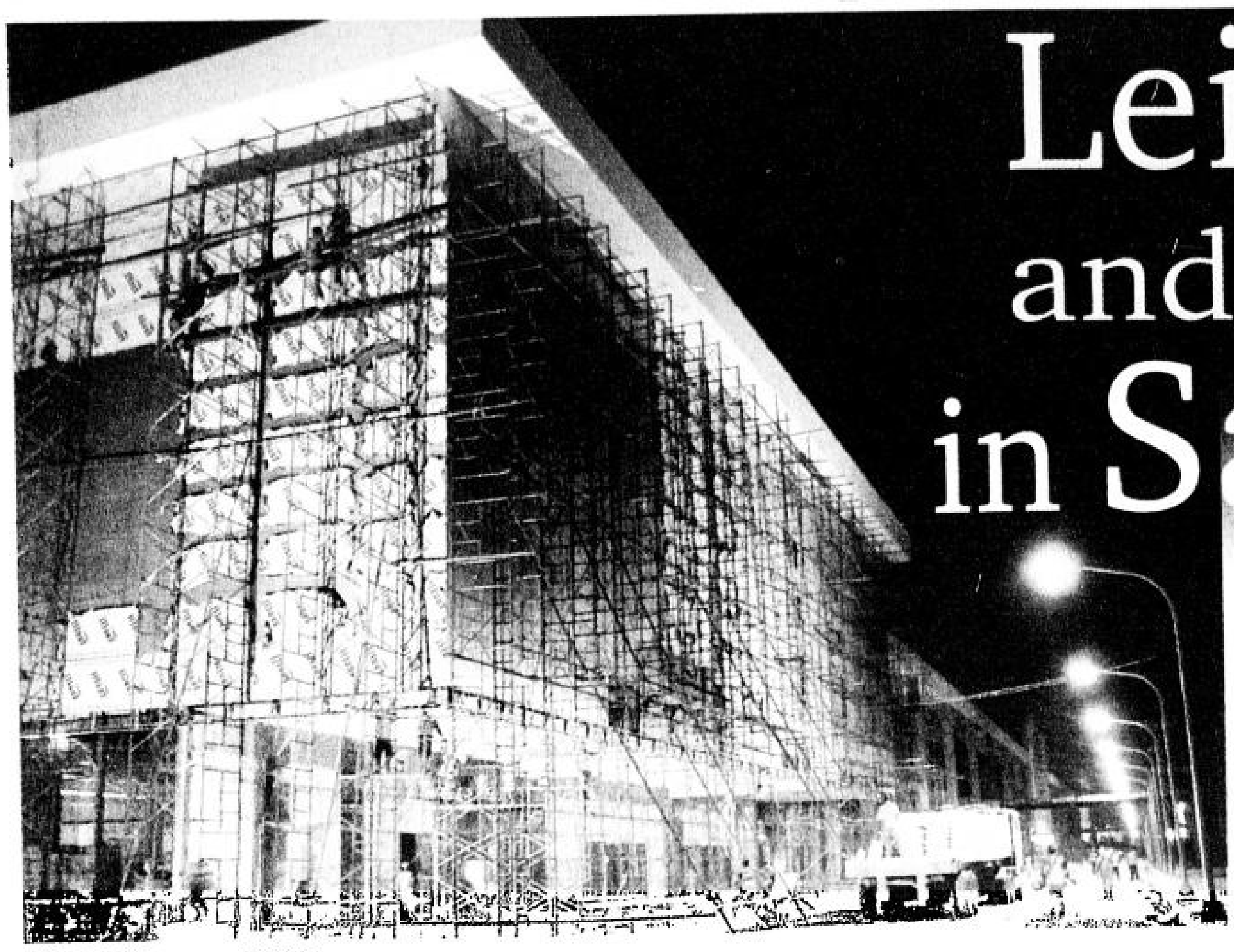
Leisure and Living in Santa Rosa



THE SOON-to-open SM City

YOU WAKE UP AT SIX, ONE SUNDAY MORNING. There are a lot of things to do today. The kids are still asleep, recounting in their dreams last night's fun spent in the country's only world-class theme park. You hesitate to wake them up so early since the Sunday mass in the nearby picturesque church is just a drive away. Your daughter's interview schedule in Makati in mid-morning interrupts your thought. You then abandon worry when you remember that transportation goes round the clock. You continue with the Sunday to-do list. Buy the month's grocery in one of the many department stores to choose from—check. At the back of your head you hear your eldest son reminding you to buy the latest pair of jeans he saw at SM City, the province's biggest mall so far. That can be done right before you watch the cinema with the family, you think. Suddenly you remember that today is your 10th anniversary with your spouse. You have planned for a romantic dinner in your favorite restaurant in Tagaytay. Although you know it's a busy day, you give yourself a pat in the back. Because deep inside you know that living in the City of Santa Rosa is one of the best decisions your family has made.

Santa Rosa is considered the tourist capital of South Luzon, having attracted more than 2 million tourists every year. Located 40 km south of Manila through the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and the Old Manila South Road, it is a strategic gateway to Metropolitan Manila as well as to the provinces of the Calabarzon sub-region. Its booming population is but a testament that Santa Rosa is not just an employment destination but also the rising Mecca for urban leisure and living.

Tourism Center

The leisure centerpiece of Santa Rosa is the famed Enchanted Kingdom, the only world-class theme park in the country which features spectacular rides and facilities for different ages, and attracts millions of foreign and local tourists a year.

Quality urban residentials

More than a hundred and twenty residential subdivisions dart Santa Rosa's landscape. The eastern part of the city is dominated by high-end residential areas along the Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road. Leading the list is Laguna Bel-Air, dubbed as the most successful township project in the country. Besides enjoying a relatively cool climate, families living in Santa Rosa may easily access the highlands of Tagaytay, the warm beaches and dive spots of Batangas, the hot springs of Calamba, the greenery of Los Baños and the urban center that is Metro Manila.

LAGUNA Bel Air, one of the country's premier township projects

Shopping capital

Shopping malls and supermarkets are scattered along Santa Rosa's commercial districts, namely: Robinsons Place Santa Rosa, Target Mall, Waltermart, Paseo de Santa Rosa, Country Market, South Supermarket, Rustan South Center and the soon-to-open SM City Santa Rosa which will be as big as SM Megamall.

Nightlife

Nightlife is very lively with the numerous clubs and bars that can be found in the Santa Rosa Commercial Complex and Paseo de Santa Rosa. If partying is your cup of tea, then the nightlife of Santa Rosa is for you. Popular hang outs at the Commercial Complex are High Spirits Bar and Restaurant, Gimikeros, Lafflers and Rafters Bars and Restaurants; while those that can be found at Paseo de Santa Rosa are Jasmine Tea House Bar & Restaurant, Fresh Bounty Bar & Restaurant, Patio Verde Bar & Restaurant, Café Ambianti, Michael Racks Restaurant, Sitio Bar, King Cobra Bar & Grille, Tropicali Bar & Grill, El Simon Mexican Restaurant, Tasty Kreems Bar & Restaurant.

Scores of restaurants serving local and foreign cuisine can also be found in the City. These include Lupan Restaurant, Pancake House, Men-Men

LEISURE/ E3

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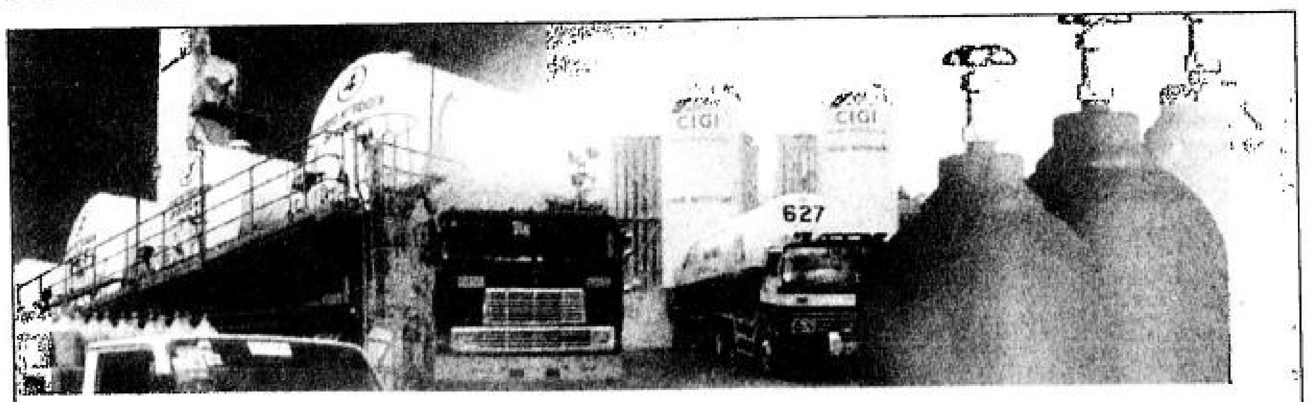

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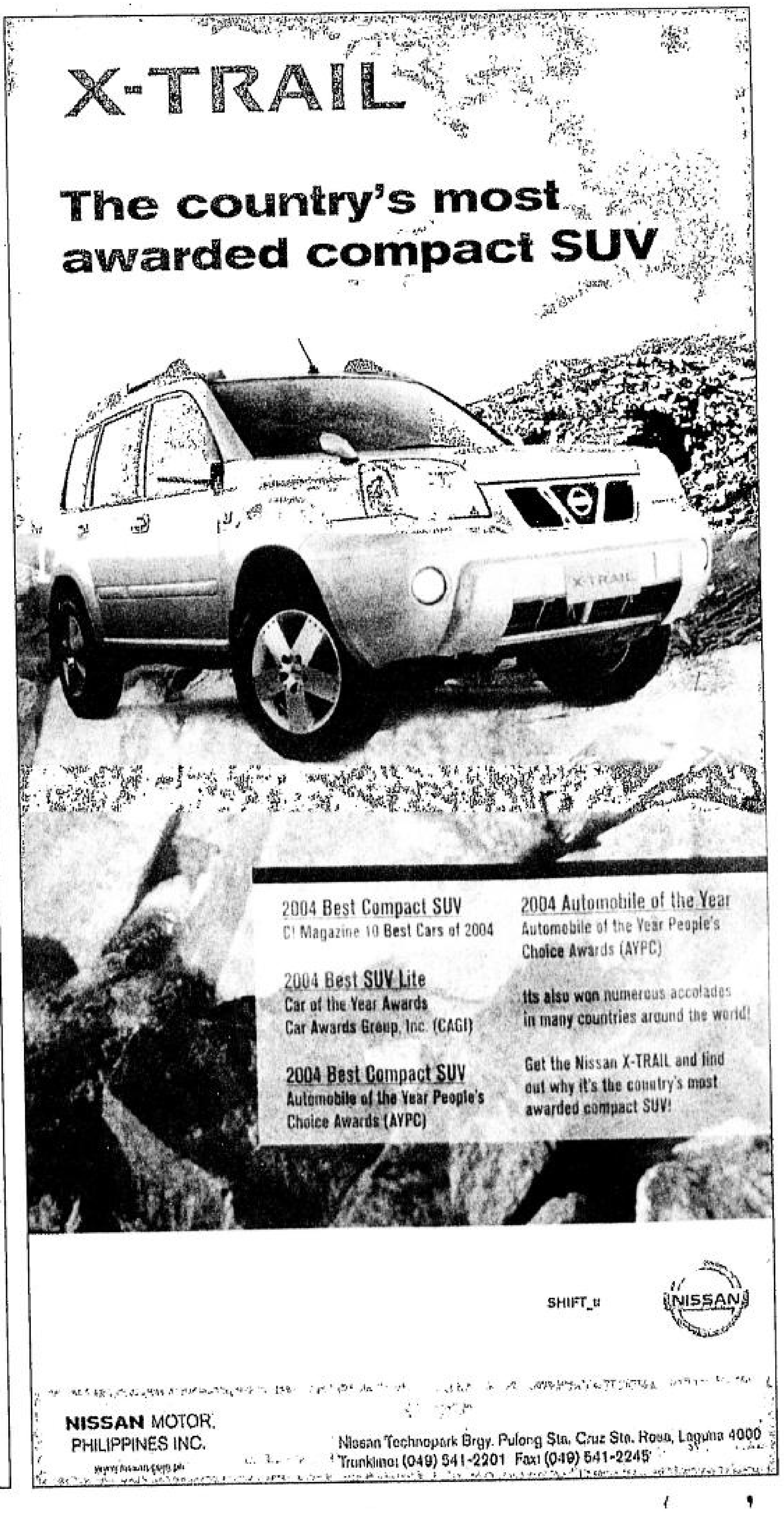

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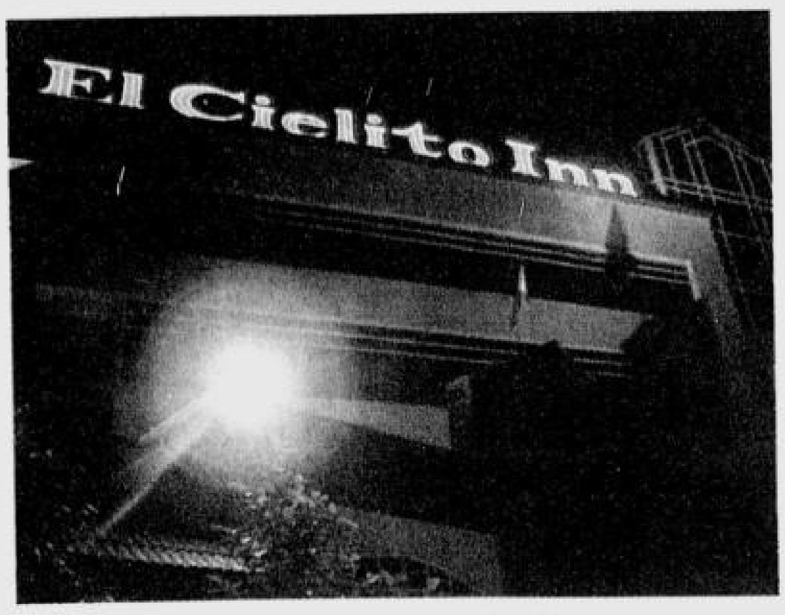
Leisure and Living in Santa Rosa

From page E2

PASEO de Santa Rosa



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Japanese Restaurant, Umenoya Japanese Restaurant, Poquito Mas, Café Breton, Mikkas Chicken Inasal, Max's Restaurant and the Twin Dragon Restaurant.

World-class hotels

Santa Rosa boasts of two business-class hotels, the El Cielito Inn and the Technopark Hotel. The El Cielito Inn is the first hotel in Santa Rosa that caters to business needs. It is situated conveniently along the Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, just 1.5 km from the SLEX. The hotel mainly caters to expatriates from leading multinational corporations with its 52 rooms in deluxe, executive and suite categories.

The Technopark Hotel, meanwhile, offers first-class amenities in the Laguna business area. It has eight suites, two premiere units, 40 deluxe rooms, among its many facilities, all of which enjoy full-time security. The Technopark Hotel is located within Greenfield Auto Park and is just 25 minutes away from Tagaytay.

Tee to pleasure

To the golf enthusiast, there are the Santa Elena Golf & Country Club and the Country Club, site of the 2005 South East Asian Games. Santa Elena and the Country Club are world-class golf courses designed to test the abilities of the best golfers.

Heritage Sites

Santa Rosa was established as early as 1752. Sites that survived the passing of time can still be found. Some of these are the Bantayan, old Spanish Houses, the Santa Rosa de Lima Parish and the Cuartel de Santo Domingo.

The Bantayan, also known as the Santa Rosa Arch, was constructed during the Spanish era and was refurbished in 1931, patterned after the Arch de Triumph of Paris. Located in front of the new City Hall, its modern design replaced the old guard tower used to watch against bandits during the Spanish colonial period.

Old Spanish houses can still be found lining the streets of Santa Rosa's *poblacion*. Within these old houses are a treasure trove of artifacts and memoirs of Philippine history collected by the city's old families.

The Santa Rosa de Lima Parish, meanwhile, is one of the oldest religious structures from the Spanish period. The Baroque-style church was built by the Dominicans during 1792.

The Cuartel de Santo Domingo, on the other hand, is the ruin of an old Spanish fort that played a key role in turning the tide of the Philippine Revolution. It was recently declared as a national historical site by the National Historical Institute.

Bayanihan Foundation Parade

Held every third week of January, the Bayanihan Foundation Parade is a street fest displaying the *bayanihan* or Filipino communal spirit of cooperation, which makes seemingly impossible feats realizable. The event highlights 18 colorfully decorated *nipa* huts hauled on foot and paraded throughout the city.

How to get to Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa is easily accessible from nearly everywhere in Metro Manila and major destinations in the Calabarzon. It is only 30 minutes away from Muntinlupa, either via the SLEX or the Old South Highway; less than two hours from either Lucena City, Batangas City or Cavite City; and one and a half hours away from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

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Ika-214 na Taon ng
Pagkatatag

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Hon. Arlene Arcillas-Nazareno
City Vice Mayor

City Councilors

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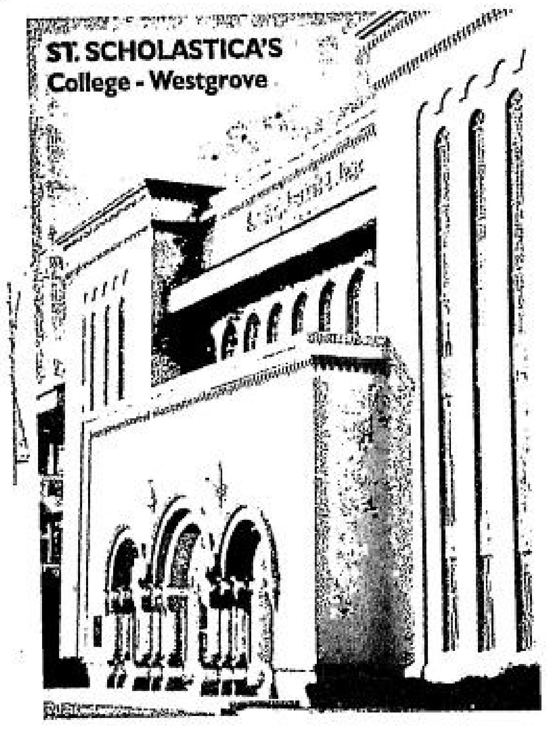
Santa Rosa: A Brief History of Growth

THE PICTURESQUE Chair of St. Peter Parish



ST. SCHOLASTICA'S College - Westgrove

The city recently held its first cityhood anniversary July 10, 2005, celebrating its history as the 101st city in the Philippines

SANTA ROSA CITY'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO flourish as it is now dubbed as the Rising Investment Capital of South Luzon, one of the best alternative investment and leisure destinations in the country.

It was then known as Barrio Bukol, a territorial extension of Hacienda Biñan owned by the Dominican religious order in 1644. After a series of renaming, it became independent from Biñan and was established as the Municipality of Santa Rosa in 1792. The town was named after its patron saint, Saint Rose of Lima, Peru whose baroque church was first constructed in 1796.

Rosenians participated with fervor in the 1896 Philippine Revolution and was even instrumental in the proclamation of Philippine Independence when the Municipal Government, represented by Francisco Arambulo, signed the Act of Independence on June 12, 1898.

On February 5, 1945, the Japanese abandoned the town when the local guerillas and the American Army entered the town. The town folks after World War II then depended on agriculture and small business for livelihood.

Fourth to first, vice versa

Once an area devoted to agriculture, Santa Rosa became a rapidly developing site for business, industry and real estate. The town became a first-class municipality when its income reached P4 million in 1986. But in 1988, while its income remained steady, former President Corazon Aquino enacted Executive Order 249. This law revised the classification of municipalities and stipulated that a first class municipality should have an income of P15 million. So, in effect, Santa Rosa's classification reverted from first-class to fourth-class category.

Still, the town's income gradually increased and Santa Rosa became a third-class municipality in 1989 when it generated an income of P11 million. The town climbed up the charts and became a first class municipality when it reached the P54-million income in 1993.

THE BAROQUE-style Saint Rose of Lima Parish

CUARTEL de Sto. Domingo, sentinel of the past

Calabarzon and industrialization

To advance regional development, the national government recognized 11 growth networks throughout the country, one of this was Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon). It was conceptualized as a large-scale growth area adjacent to Metro Manila. Also designated as Region IV-A, Calabarzon has been transformed from an agro-based rural economy to a booming industrialized setting, as exemplified by the Santa Rosa experience.

With the favorable opening of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in the 1980s, many globally competitive locator companies penetrated the town. First to come in was Filipinas Synthetic Fiber Corp (Filsyn). Then Coca Cola Bottling Company moved in because of the town's strategic location and abundant water reservoir, which are assets to any industrial firm.

In 1989, the first industrial estate in the Philippines, the Laguna Technopark Inc (LTI), opened its 387-hectare real estate development project to world-class locator companies such as Golay Buchel, Henkel, NEC, Honda, Matsushita Electric and Trilux.

Along with the industrialization came the creation of jobs for its constituents, resulting to increased employment for the municipality.

Complementary to Santa Rosa's stature as an investment spot, the first ever theme park in the country, Enchanted Kingdom, opened its gates to local and foreign tourists in July 1995. It has been the best tourist stop in the country ever since.

Regarded as the "Little Detroit of the Philippines" since 1992, Santa Rosa now houses six out of eight automotive manufacturers situated in the country, namely: Toyota, Ford, Nissan, Honda, Star Motor and Columbian Motors.

The automotive companies shifted its operation to Santa Rosa because of its lower congestion rate, sufficient facilities and strategic location to Manila and within Calabarzon.

Cityhood

Santa Rosa's quest for cityhood pushed through on July 10, 2004. The administration pushed for cityhood in order to enhance Santa Rosa's status as an investment and leisure destination. More investment means job opportunities. And this consequently increased the annual income and services rendered by the city government.

The city recently held its first cityhood anniversary July 10, 2005, celebrating its history as the 101st city in the Philippines.

EDITORS:
Lawrence Ramos
Jensen Cristobal

CONTRIBUTORS:
Maria Victoria Cariño
Regina Agravio
Janina Rose Malabanan
Nory Gazel Magsombol
Henry Cañeja
Rommel Quiliza
Jasper Almirante

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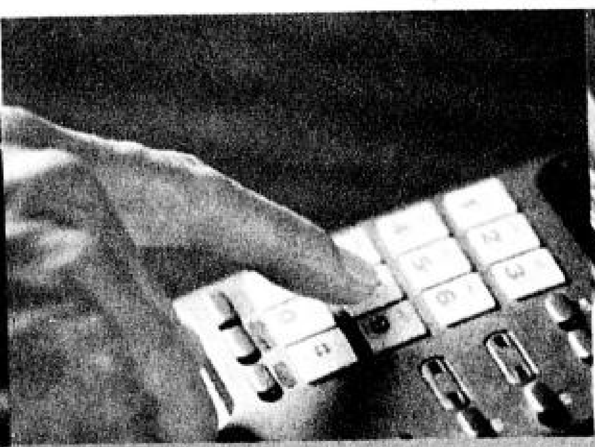

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- Completed at least 2 years of college or its equivalent
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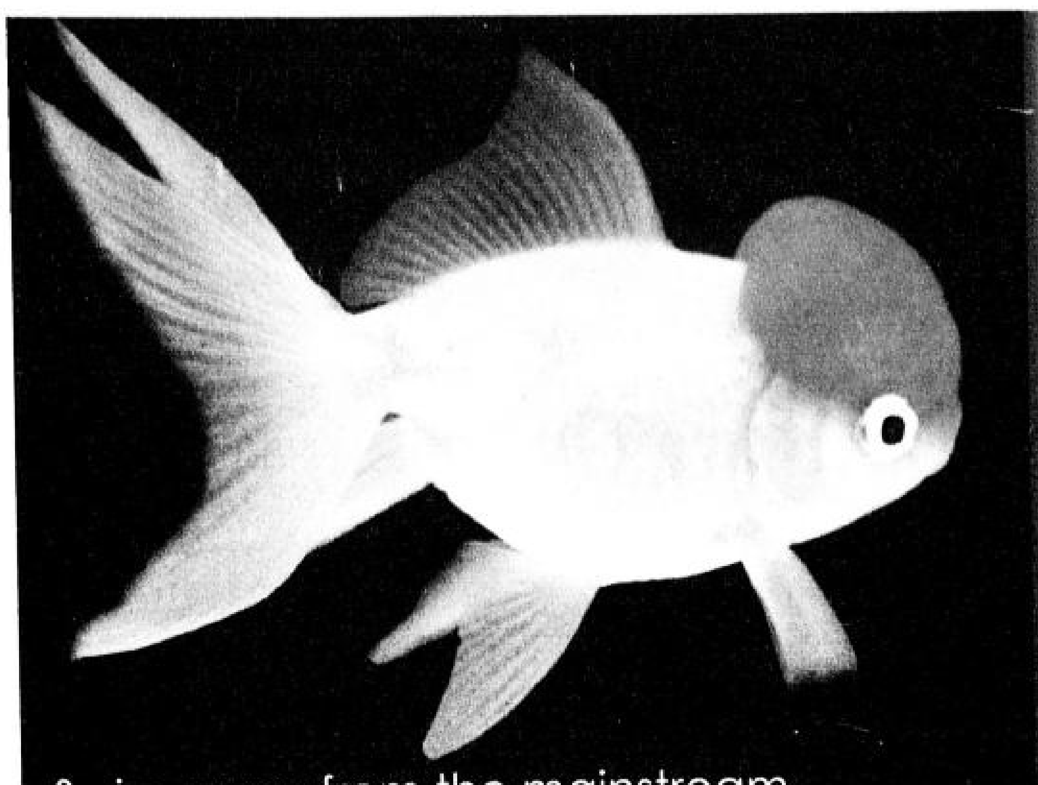

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Walk-in applicants may apply from Monday - Friday 7:30 -10:30 am at 222-224 N. Garcia cor Jupiter Streets, Bel-Air, Makati City. Bring your resume with 2x2 photo and valid ID. Please be in business attire.

VENTUS
The Contact Center subsidiary of ePLDT

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc.

AIG INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC. (AIG) is a fortune 500 company and the world's leading international insurance and financial services organization, with operations in approximately 130 countries.

AIG member companies serve commercial, institutional and individual customers through the most extensive worldwide property-casualty and life insurance networks of any insurer. AIG's global businesses also include financial services, retirement savings and asset management. The common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, as well as the stock exchanges in London, Paris, Switzerland and Tokyo.

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc. (AIG-BPSI) is a business process outsourcing (BPO) company serving the needs of AIG American General Life Insurance Companies. AIG-BPSI invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

Business Processing Specialists

You will be reporting to the Team Leader and will be responsible to perform and complete process transactions according to prescribed standards and ensure that quality requirements are achieved.

Job Requirements:

- Graduate of any four-year course preferably in the medical field
- Excellent verbal and written English communication skills
- Can perform multiple tasks accurately and independently
- Above average analytical skills
- Ability to make sound decisions under pressure and work effectively in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to analyze and interpret medical terminology
- Willing to work in the night shift

Call Center Specialists

You will be reporting to the Call Center Team Leader and will be responsible for handling customer inquiries, providing general information on the company's products and services and processing requests of customers to update policy information.

Job Requirements:

- Graduate of any four-year course
- Excellent verbal and written English communication skills
- Can perform multiple tasks accurately and independently
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skills
- Excellent listening skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to work in the night shift

Please submit your resume with a 2x2 picture at the 8F Philamlife Building 1207 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City or email us your resume at BPSI-APPLICANTS@AIG.COM.

For jobseekers, log on to: **www.jobmarketonline.com**

MORLAND (OVERSEAS) MANPOWER SERVICES
POEA License No. 213 LB-080503-R

ATTENTION: **NURSES**

JOB FAIR IN MANILA

DESTINATION: **USA**

MORLAND OVERSEAS MANPOWER SERVICES in partnership with our prestigious employer LUROSE Professional Recruitment & Staffing Agency, LLC (Accre. No. 10075622) will be holding a job fair for ASANA NURSING SOLUTIONS at the MANILA DIAMOND HOTEL in Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

DATES & TIME: January 18 to January 20, 2006
Wednesday thru Friday, from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
January 21, 2006, Saturday from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Nursing Assignments will be in the United States. Two Years contracts is offered with an option to renew: Competitive salary extended with weekly pay. Accessible Medical & Dental insurance. Free first month travel to workplace and housing rent offered. Assistance in NCLEX licensure and a wide variety of benefits awaits you!

"If you are registered nurses with minimum two (2) years experience ***COME AND SEE US, AND MEET YOUR U.S. EMPLOYER***"

Please bring your two (2) sets of resumé/pictures & all documents with original. Please report on January 16-17, 2006 for registration and preliminary interview at:

MORLAND (OVERSEAS) MANPOWER SERVICES
BCM Centre 2322 Singalong cor Zapanta Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 400-0698/400-0694/400-0911
Fax No. (632) 522-6962

No Fees To be Collected

IMMEDIATE HIRING

REGISTERED NURSES

Pls. Call: Ms. MERCY FIGUEROA at 930-4155 and
Ms. TESS SEGURA at 935-5262
BERNARDINO GENERAL HOSPITAL
680 Quirino Hi-way, San Bartolome,
Novaliches, Quezon City
Zabarte Road, Brgy. Kaligayahan
Novaliches, Quezon City

USA MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP
MEDICAL STUDENT / NURSE / PHYSICIAN

Are you ambitious, highly qualified, female, aged 19-30 yrs old, Single, of good character, willing to pursue a fully sponsored Medical Scholarship? Willing to take Psychological and Medical Evaluations with Polygraph test?

If this is you pls call 0917-9421263

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HEAD OFFICE

TRUST INVESTMENT OFFICER (Additional personnel to handle growing business)
- Will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Trust & Investment Center's unit investment trust funds (UITFs) with particular focus on the fixed income fund
- Will provide strategic input on portfolio construction and develop acquisition and exit strategies for core positions

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Compose regular market reviews and outlook prices
- Provide analytical support in developing investment policies and guidelines (e.g. asset allocation, active/passive mix and performance attribution)
- Analyze portfolio performance versus long term objectives. Perform attribution analysis by identifying key variances and determining casual factors.
- Work with marketing and sales channels on providing fund/market information to support the sales and marketing effort e.g. overall investment style, key strategy points, etc.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of business related degree from top university. CFA charterholder (or level 2 candidate) is highly desirable.
- 3-5 years relevant investment analysis, equity research, asset allocation, portfolio management or investment consulting experience
- Must possess excellent quantitative, writing and interpersonal skills
- Willingness to work in a cross-functional environment

ACCOUNTING ANALYSTS
- Will be responsible for the preparation of the Bank's financial/internal/external regulatory reports or to handle Treasury/Trust Accounting transactions
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably a Certified Public Accountant
- Proficient in MS Office Applications
- Experience in Banking will be preferred

ACCOUNT ASSOCIATES (Kalookan)
- Will be responsible in assisting Account Officers in servicing of accounts and handling of the documentation of accounts
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Must possess good analytical skills; good communication skills; highly developed interpersonal skills and a high sense of responsibility

ACCOUNT OFFICER – Acquired Assets (Cebu)
- Will be responsible in the marketing and selling of all industrial and agricultural ROPOA assets
- Graduate of any 4 year business course, preferably Marketing
- Experience in conducting market/feasibility studies will be preferred

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER
- Will be responsible in translating system specifications into technical specifications & writing program codes
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any IT related course
- Experience in Banking will be preferred

INFORMATION SYSTEM AUDITOR
- Will be responsible for the testing and audit of existing and new IT systems of the Bank
- Graduate of BS Computer Science
- Experience in Audit and Information Technology will be an advantage

NETWORK ENGINEER
- Will be responsible for network administration, network optimization, planning, design, and evaluation. Will also handle the LAN/WAN administration, Internet/Intranet/remote access operations.
- Graduate of BS ECE or BS Computer Engineering
- Experience in LAN/WAN internetworking/administration, network planning and performance management for at least 3 years will be an advantage

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER
- Will be responsible in evaluating branches to ensure adherence to policies and procedures and to ensure standard implementation of procedures
- Graduate of any 4 year business related course, preferably BS Accountancy
- Experience in a similar function will be preferred

TELECOM ENGINEER
- Graduate of BS ECE
- Experience in PABX/KTS & line installation & administration for at least 2 years, proficient in SCS, wire communication & transmission and LAN/WAN operations will be preferred

METRO MANILA BRANCHES AND NEW BRANCHES
(BACLARAN, JUAN LUNA-DIVISORIA AND SAN PEDRO-LAGUNA)

BRANCH CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible in client/account servicing in the branch
- Graduate of any 4 year business course

BRANCH SALES ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible for handling and processing account opening, and other bank products
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in Bank Branch Operations for at least 1 year will be preferred

BRANCH SALES OFFICER
- Will be responsible in account solicitation for the branch and assisting in the servicing and maintenance of existing account holders
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in a Sales/Marketing function in a bank or any financial institution for at least 2 years will be preferred

BRANCH SALES SPECIALISTS
- This is an entry position eventually leading to Sales Officership. Qualified candidates will undergo classroom and on the job training involving field sales calls, sales planning, prospecting, appointment getting and presentation. Candidates are expected to attain targets for number of sales calls, accounts opened and volume of funds generated.
- Graduate of any 4 year course with strong inclination and high aptitude for sales

BRANCH SERVICE HEAD
- Will be responsible for the over-all Branch Operations
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience as Branch Operations Officer or have handled both Branch Cashier and Branch Accountant positions in any Commercial/Universal Bank for at least 2 years will be preferred

BRANCH RELATIONSHIP OFFICER
- Will be responsible in formulating plans and strategies to expand relationships within the bank's target market and for implementing of strategies for the branch target marketing in accordance with the Branch Sales Plan
- Experience in a sales function gained from a bank or other financial institutions for at least 2 years will be preferred

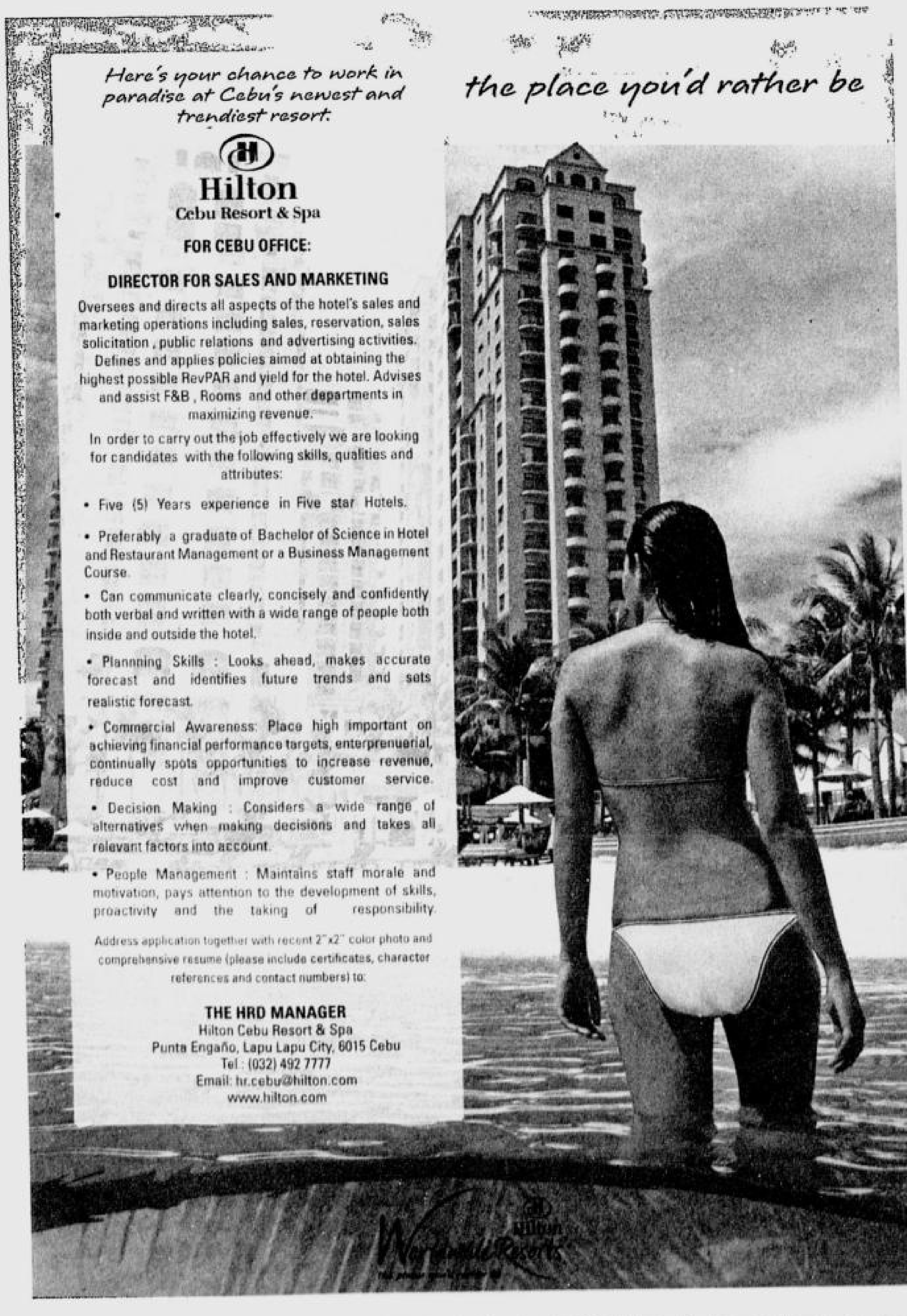
Be a part of a company with GLobal Standards, currently being benchmarked in Service & Competence.

Interested parties are requested to send their comprehensive resumés to any of the addresses below with a 2x2 photo attached.

(POSITION APPLIED FOR)
International Exchange Bank
Recruitment & Placement Sector
4/F, iBank Exchange Building, 142 Amorsolo St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City

E-mail address: jobs@ibank.com.ph

Visit our website at *www.ibank.com.ph*



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the place you'd rather be

Hilton
Cebu Resort & Spa

FOR CEBU OFFICE:

DIRECTOR FOR SALES AND MARKETING

Oversees and directs all aspects of the hotel's sales and marketing operations including sales, reservation, sales solicitation , public relations and advertising activities. Defines and applies policies aimed at obtaining the highest possible RevPAR and yield for the hotel. Advises and assist F&B , Rooms and other departments in maximizing revenue.

In order to carry out the job effectively we are looking for candidates with the following skills, qualities and attributes:

- Five (5) Years experience in Five star Hotels.
- Preferably a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management or a Business Management Course.
- Can communicate clearly, concisely and confidently both verbal and written with a wide range of people both inside and outside the hotel.
- Plannning Skills : Looks ahead, makes accurate forecast and identifies future trends and sets realistic forecast.
- Commercial Awareness: Place high important on achieving financial performance targets, enterprenuerial, continually spots opportunities to increase revenue, reduce cost and improve customer service.
- Decision Making : Considers a wide range of alternatives when making decisions and takes all relevant factors into account.
- People Management : Maintains staff morale and motivation, pays attention to the development of skills, proactivity and the taking of responsibility.

Address application together with recent 2"x2" color photo and comprehensive resume (please include certificates, character references and contact numbers) to:

THE HRD MANAGER
Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa
Punta Engaño, Lapu Lapu City, 6015 Cebu
Tel : (032) 492 7777
Email: hr.cebu@hilton.com
www.hilton.com

THE WORLD BANK
Requires a
TEAM ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for top caliber Team Assistant to provide efficient and high-quality secretarial and administrative support to managers. This position will be for a two-year term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Drafts routine correspondence and proof-read documents using proper grammar, punctuation and style;
- Edits documents based on comments provided by the team members;
- Uses word processing or desktop publishing skills to produce complex text, figures, graphs, etc., according to standard Bank formats and business procedures;
- Take down minutes of the non-technical discussions/meetings;
- Coordinates and updates team and mission schedules taking priorities and changes into account, monitors changes, and inform relevant parties accordingly;
- Solves non-routine problems (e.g. responds to requests requiring file search and basic reserch through Intranetor Internet, Bank manuals);
- Assists in the preparation and logistical planning of various events, e.g., missions, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Tracks key milestones and alerts Task Team Leaders on the tasks' timelines, deliverables, budget status, etc.;
- Coordinates with relevant staff, and provides assistance and/or information on project related matters as requested;
- Maintains and regularly updates distribution lists, contact lists of project counterparts, etc;
- Ensures timely distribution of documents based on Bank procedures;
- Keeps track of paper flow and maintains up to date unit and project files (both paper and electronic);
- Participates in selected mission activities such as meetings and field work;
- Responds effectively and in a timely manner to information requests from the team, other Bank staff, external clients and partners;
- Provides back-up support to other ACS staff in other units.

Selection criteria:
- College degree in any relevant field;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to establish and maintain excellent work relations in a team environment;
- High degree of initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results;
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to prioritize assignment and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision;
- Excellent written and vebal communication skills in English and Filipino;
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Database Program);
- Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, machines and equipment; and
- Minimum 5 years experience in secretarial and administrative work, preferably with high ranking officials.

The World Bank offers a competitive package based on the local market, and attractive medical and pension plans.

Qualified applicants are enjoined to submit comprehensive resume with recent photo and contact numbers to the address below not later than January 20, 2006. Only applicants who will be shortlisted will be called upon for interview.

PROFESSIONAL STAFFERS, (A Division of John Clements)
Level 12B, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone: (+63 2) 884-1227, 884-1167
E-mail Address: noemi.ebarle@johnclements.com
visit: www.johnclements.com

TUTOR
for 6th grade girl

in international school, to oversee and help with homework. Mainly Math, Science and English. Ideally 4:00-5:30 Mon-Thu in Dasmariñas Village. Student can also visit tutor's place. Send qualifications, bio-data and hourly rate to P.O. Box 8116, Makati City 1222.

KAIZEN E & M CORPORATION
U-102 Midland Mansion, 839 Pasay Rd., Makati
Tel. No.: 894-3037 to 38

AUTO CADD OPERATOR
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
ELECTRICIAN

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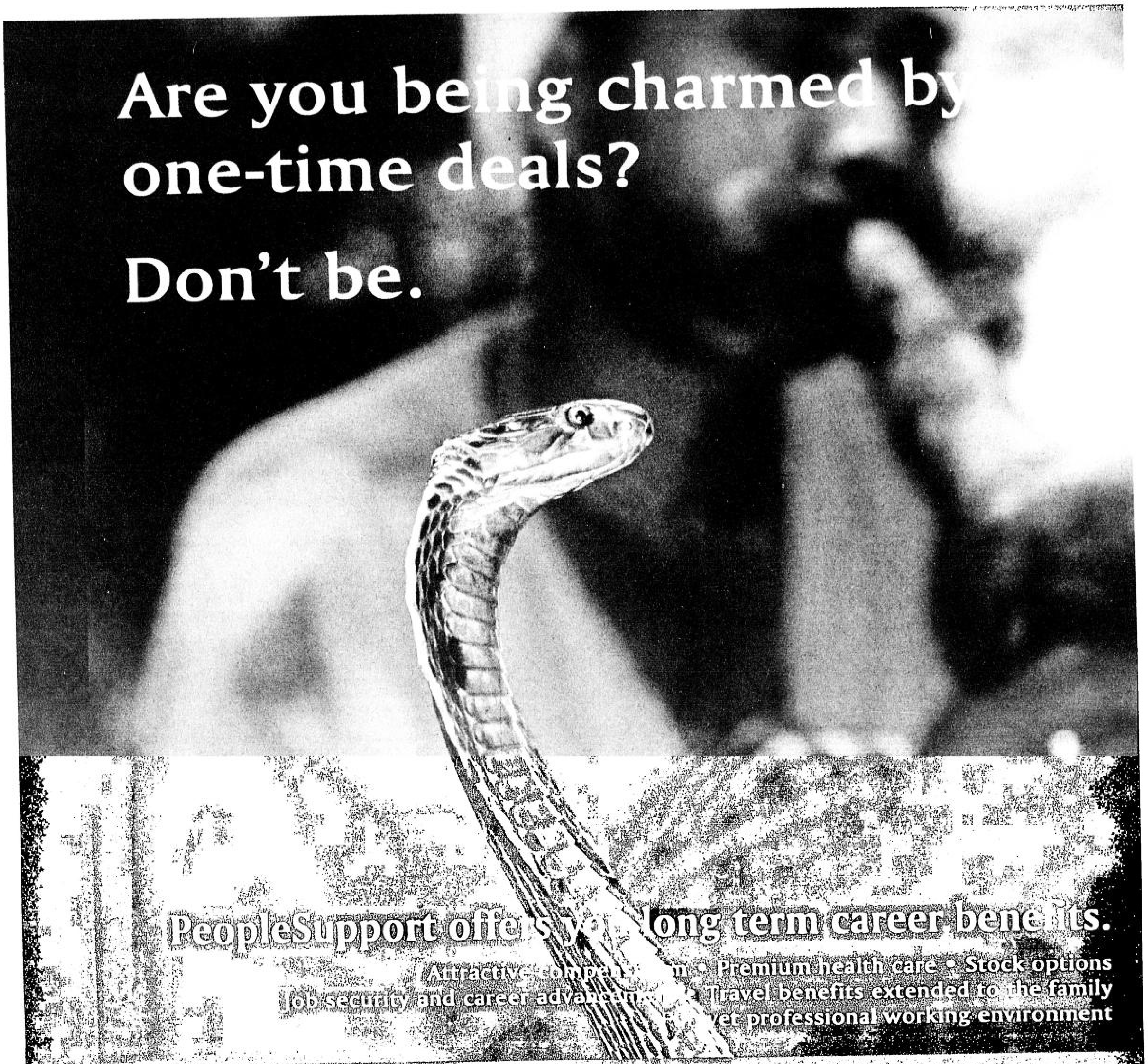
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We offer a premium for contact center experience
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- Excellent English communication skills
- Strong customer service/sales skills
- Problem solving and analytical skills
- Computer and internet proficiency
- Willing to work shifts

Visit our office and be interviewed right away!

PeopleSupport Center
Ayala corner Sen Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City
Monday to Saturday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
Call our HR Hotline at 755-2600

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CORPORATE POSITIONS NEEDED

TRAINING
Training Manager, Leadership Development
University Linkages Program Liaison
Communication Trainers (Manila and Cebu)
Professional Development Trainer
Financial Services Trainer
Technical Trainer (Manila and Cebu)
Course Developer

SALES
Business Development Manager
Sales Associate

HUMAN RESOURCES
Recruitment Director
Internal Communications Manager
Employee Relations Officer
Recruitment Officers (Manila, Cebu and Davao)
Recruitment Associate (Davao)
Recruitment Assistants (Manila, Cebu and Davao)

SERVICE DELIVERY
Program Director
Director, Quality Management
Forcedesk Manager
Workforce Manager
Operations Manager, Financial Services
Team Supervisor, Financial Services

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Director, Information Technology
Telecommunications Manager
CMS Administrator
Telecommunications Engineer
Telecommunications Administrator
Dialer Administrator
Helpdesk Analyst
Database Analyst
Reporting Analyst
Desktop Analyst (Cebu)

ADMINISTRATION
Travel Desk Manager

For corporate applicants, please email your resumé to
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com
For further details, visit our website

stc
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A PeopleSupport Subsidiary

STC Solutions is looking for
Outbound Collection Associates

- Great English communication skills
- Extreme confidence
- Sharp and quick thinking
- Ability to work independently and negotiate effectively
- Ability to deal with pressure
- Willing to work shifts

For applications to STC Solutions positions:

HR Hotline: 755.2672
Email: **stcjobs@peoplesupport.com**
Apply online:
http://stcapplicant.stcsolutions.com

www.peoplesupport.com

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INQUIRER
JOB Market
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2006
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3 SECTIONS

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TECHNICAL TRAINERS
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Or visit us at our Recruiting Center: 7/F Tower 2, RCBC Bldg., 6819 Ayala Ave. Corner Senator Gil Puyat Ave.

DELL™
Consider the possibilities

Unchallenged?

Be part of a big and continuously growing organization which is consistently on the Top 5 of SEC's Philippines Top 5000 corporations.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

- Excellent oral & written English communication skills
- Preferably graduate of any 4-year or 2-year course
- Customer-oriented, highly motivated
- Comfortable using online and other research tools
- Willing to work on a shifting/night schedule
- Willing to work full-time
- Call center experience an advantage
- Male/Female, 19-45 years old

CUSTOMER MASTER DATA ANALYST

- 2-3 years experience of working in a customer facing role
- Experience of SAP is an advantage, especially creating customer master data records
- Good problem solving, interpersonal and analytical skills
- Demonstrated knowledge of systems (i.e. ERP systems and applications)
- Strong Excel & Access skills
- Knowledge of tax procedures, policies, and processes
- Knowledge of Customer Master Data procedures, policies, and processes
- Knowledge of Customer Data Hierarchy Structure
- Knowledge of SOX requirements
- Understanding of Customer Master Data KPI's and Service Level targets

ADD | Force.

NCR PRPA LICENSE NO. M-05-06-269
DO18 Reg. No. NCR-9-0402-017

5/F Pilar Building, 148 Amorsolo St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 813-3000 Locs. 314 & 324
Fax. No. (632) 894-1357
Email: recruitment@add.com.ph

NO FEES SHALL BE COLLECTED FROM APPLICANTS.

UNI-FAB Metal Industries Inc. is an ISO certified sheet metal fabrication company.

We are looking for individuals to join our organization as

Sales and/or Marketing Executives

- Female with pleasing personality
- With or without sales experience
- 23+ years of age
- Some engineering background a plus

You must be

- Able to develop new clients
- Able to improve on the sales performance of existing clients
- Able to work under pressure
- Able to work with minimal supervision
- Willing to work overtime to meet client deadlines
- Willing to work/meet with clients on job sites
- Willing to travel nationwide

If you are that person; please email resumé to argylecamacho@gmail.com or argylecamacho@yahoo.com or mail it to 950 Espeleta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

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URGENTLY NEEDED

CIVIL ENGINEER

- With 2-3 years relevant experience
- Familiar with site supervision, cost estimation and budgeting
- Willing to be assigned in provincial projects
- Knowledge in using MS Office Applications, Project

ARCHITECT

- Newly Graduate
- Knowledge of AutoCAD, MS Office Applications

Submit Resumé/Bio-data to:

HERCAR BUILDERS, INC.
Unit 403 Merchant Square Condominium
1386 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue corner Mabolo St.,
New Manila, Quezon City
email:hbi@hercar.com.ph

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Invites applicants ...

For ENGINEERING:

NETWORK/TELECOM ENGINEER

- ✓ *Cisco Certified ECE graduate*
- ✓ *Metro Manila and Cebu-based*

For CALL CENTER:

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

- ✓ *At least 2 years of college*

TELESALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ✓ *Good in handling tele-sales, assertive, persistent, resilient*

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE

- ✓ *Preferably a graduate of any computer-related course*

MULTI-LINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

- ✓ *Fluent in English and in any of the following languages – Spanish, Nihongo, Mandarin*

FINANCE MANAGER

- ✓ *CPA; at least 7 years work-related experience*

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS MANAGER

- ✓ *At least 5 years work experience in compensation and benefits*

TRAINING SUPERVISOR

- ✓ *Must have training work experience in a call center environment*

TELEPHONY ADMINISTRATOR

- ✓ *Must have 3 years voice communications experience in a call center; knowledgable in maintaining internal telecoms equipment.*

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

- ✓ *At least 2 years experience in a computer support role; A+ or MCP Certification*

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- ✓ *Knowledgable on networking particularly on Cisco Network equipment*

HR ASSISTANT

- ✓ *Psychology or Behavioral Science Graduate*

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Please apply ...
Monday to Friday
8:00 am to 3:00 pm
PLDT Building, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City
(Please bring your resume and indicate your desired position.)

Visit us at our website www.pldt.com.ph

Or you may call **8-PLDTHR (8-753847)**

Sarap Maging ka-greenwich

As we continue to expand our business and strengthen our organization, we are looking for dynamic individuals who can be part of the ka-GREENWICH Team. If you are *gutsy, gung-ho, good-natured* and *have passion for excellence*, you might just be the one we are looking for.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- 25-35 years old. Graduate of Bachelor of Science major in Management, Marketing, Economics or Finance from reputable universities
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in real estate/business development
- Can work with little supervision in implementing site expansion strategies of the company, identifying new trade areas & sites and negotiating for the best lease terms
- Computer-savvy (MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint)

TRAINING OFFICER

- 25-35 years old. Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Mass Communication from reputable universities
- With at least four (4) years in Training, two years of which is in supervisory level
- Will be responsible for leading a unit of Training & Development section, facilitating workgroups, analyzing training needs, designing and implementing training & development programs
- Willing and able to travel
- Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint

STORE MANAGER

(NCR Stores, Cavite, Batangas, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Baguio, Vigan)

- 24-35 years old: Graduate of a 4-year, preferably Business/Management course from reputable universities
- With at least three (3) years supervisory/managerial experience in Food Service

ASSISTANT STORE MANAGER

(NCR Stores, Cavite, Batangas, Sorsogon, Legaspi, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Baguio, La Union)

- 21-27 years old, Graduate of a 4-year, preferably Business/Management course from reputable universities
- Will take charge of customer service and implementation of world-class standard

Interested parties may apply personally from Mondays to Fridays, 8am-5pm or send their comprehensive resume with recent 2 x 2 photo and a copy of Transcript of Records to:

HRD-Staffing Unit
Rm. 1004, Jollibee Center Bldg.
San Miguel Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City

greenwich
The Philippines No. Pizza

Email address: apply@greenwich.com.ph Contact Number: (02) 636-1111

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architecks
METAL SYSTEMS INC.

We are inviting aggressive and mature individuals to fill some positions as we continue our commitment in giving the best quality of service to our clients.

INVENTORY CLERK

- Male/ Female, not more than 35 years old.
- BS Accountancy Graduate.
- 1 year experience.
- Trustworthy, mature, dependable, open to new ideas and Computer Literate.
- Willing to work within Marikina Area.

SALES ENGINEERS

- Engineering or Architecture graduate, Male/Female
- One (1) year experience in sales, working stint with a construction company is an advantage.
- Proficient in English and with very pleasing personality

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

- Female, not more than 35 years old.
- Graduate of Fine Arts (Advertising) or Marketing.
- Efficient in MS PowerPoint, CorelDraw and PhotoShop.
- Experienced in formulating and Implementing Marketing Program, Organizing product presentations.

Interested Applicants may personally submit Resume, Transcript of Records and certificates of previous employments to:

ARCHITECKS METAL SYSTEMS INC.
533 Commonwealth Ave.QC
Or email: dnmfp@info.com.ph

Höegh Fleet Services Phils., Inc.

needs

(1) Engine Instructor

Qualifications:

- Not more than 45 years of age
- Licensed Marine Engineer
- Preferably management level position
- Computer literate
- Willing to work on shore on a permanent basis
- Teaching experience an advantage

Attractive Benefits await successful candidate!

Please send your resumé with 1 recent passport-size photo to:

4677 Hoegh Building, Arellano St., Palanan, Makati City
Email: admin.hfsp@hoegh.com
Tel : 551 85 92 to 96 • Fax : 551 87 30

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...a STAND-OUT?

...this COOL under PRESSURE?

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If you are...WE NEED YOU!

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent; technical background is an advantage

CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in various shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum 25wpm)

TRAINERS
(Technical account)
Excellent presentation skills; strong technical background is a must; call center experience is a plus; team-oriented and able to work in a fast-paced environment

LOG-IN ADMINISTRATOR (WFM)
Six (6) months of Call Center Operations or Workforce experience a must; must have excellent customer service skills; must be computer literate; ability to use E-mail, extended e-mail functions, word processing and spreadsheets

DATABASE PROGRAMMER
Highly knowledgeable in Microsoft SQLServer, Crystal reports, MySQL, Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment

All positions require excellent verbal and written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer

Interested applicants may
bring the following requirements:
Updated resume
2 pcs of 2 x 2 picture
5 pcs of 1 x1 picture

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Level 3 MS303 EDSA Central Pavilion
Mandaluyong City

Monday - Friday 8AM to 5PM

Hotline: (02) 6377111 local 301 & 302

www.teleperformance.ph

careers@teleperformance.ph
(include the position desired in the subject field)

http://www.jobstreet.com/teleperformance.htm

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Incentives and Bonuses

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Paid training

Unlimited advancement opportunities

Fast upward mobility

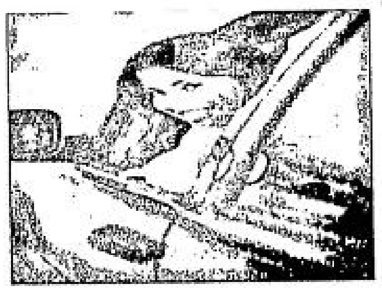
7/18 shuttle service

Teleperformance
GLOBAL CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

From working hard ...

to working smart ...

and achieving success at its fullest!



GREEN ICON Inc.
Real Estate Sales & Marketing

Join the *Premier Sales & Marketing Company*
in the Bonifacio Global City.

If you are Dynamic, Active and Driven to succeed we want you...

as ***Property Consultants*** ...
Male / Female, 21 to 28 years old, Graduate of any 4 year course from a reputable school
Preferably with Sales experience, though not required
Must be presentable & has a pleasant disposition
With effective communication skills

as ***Sales Managers*** ...
Male / Female, 28 to 35 years old
Graduate of any 4 year course and with at least 2 years supervisory sales experience, preferably in the real estate industry
Excellent interpersonal, presentation & communication skills
Can effectively execute various marketing & sales strategies

as ***Training Officer / Sales Trainor*** ...
Male / Female, 28 to 35 years old
Graduate of Behavioral Science, Education or Marketing
With at least 2 years experience in conducting sales training modules; preferably in the real estate industry
Highly resourceful and creative
With excellent oral and written communication skills

as ***Individual & Corporate Brokers*** ...

email your credentials with 2x2 photo to:
ktullo@greenicon.net or chinalex@gmail.com
only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

INTERCONTINENTAL.
HOTELS GROUP

We want you on our TEAM ...

Customer Service Representatives

➢ *Will mainly interact with the frequent stayer program members of InterContinental Hotels Group from around the globe.*

☑ Experience/education in the hospitality industry an advantage
☑ Innate ability to ask questions to identify callers needs

We are also looking for:

➢ *Spanish-Speaking Customer Service Representatives*

Reservation Sales Agents

➢ *Will mainly interact with customers for reservations and be the initial point of contact for general reservations inquiries adhering to the reservation and rate strategy procedures of InterContinental Hotels Group from around the globe.*

☑ Enjoys selling a product through high level of customer service
☑ Assertive, analytical and driven
☑ Sales background is required

FileMaker Pro Programmer

➢ *Will analyze, design and implement FileMaker Pro Solutions as well as support and redevelop existing database designs.*

☑ At least 2 years extensive experience in designing, developing and deploying FileMaker Pro solutions
☑ Good understanding and proven application of relational database design methods
☑ Knowledge in other database and/or HTML skills are a plus

... with more than 3,800 hotels in 6 continents across more than a 100 countries,

WE are the most global Hotel Company.

Our frequent stayer program is the largest in the world with 24 million members to date!

Our compensation and benefits is considered one of the best in the industry and employees have benefits in any of our hotel brands around the world!

Interested applicants should:
be a graduate of any 4 year course
have excellent English communication skill
be willing to work graveyard shift

Walk-in applicants are welcome!

29/F, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City ☎ 857-8800
✉ PHLRO.Resumes@ichotelsgroup.com

INTERCONTINENTAL · CROWNE PLAZA · indigo · Holiday Inn · Holiday Inn EXPRESS · STAYBRIDGE SUITES · CANDLEWOOD SUITES

You may visit our website at www.ichotelsgroup.com

If all you think about is getting ahead, then we want you.

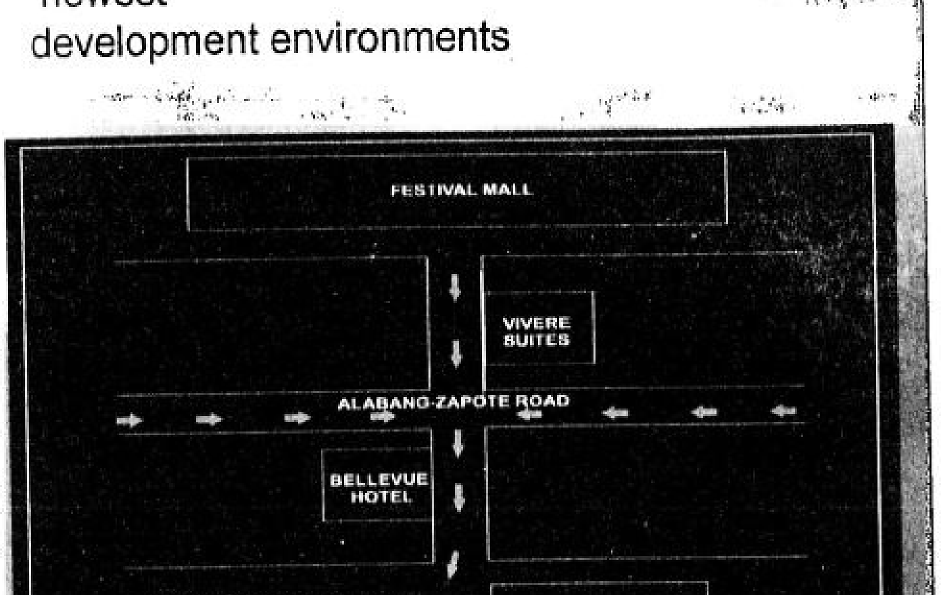
Come to APAC's Open House Recruitment from January 16-20.

Enjoy the following benefits:

- Highly competitive starting salaries
- Meal and transportation allowances
- Health and life insurance
- Paid commission and/or bonuses where applicable
- Travel and training opportunities abroad
- Aggressive internal promotion
- The latest tools, cutting edge protocols and the newest development environments

Check out our job openings:

- **Customer Service Representatives**
- **E-Help Desk Representatives**
- **Administrative Assistant**
- **Receptionist**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VIVERE SUITES
ALABANG-ZAPOTE ROAD
BELLEVUE HOTEL
APAC CUSTOMER SERVICES BLDG.
PLAZA B BUILDING

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Mondays thru Fridays, from 9 am to 6 pm
Or call us at: 7576500 or 7576566

Apply online: **recruitment@apacmail.com**
Or visit our website: **www.apaccustomerservices.com**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2006
Philippine Copyright 1995
3 SECTIONS

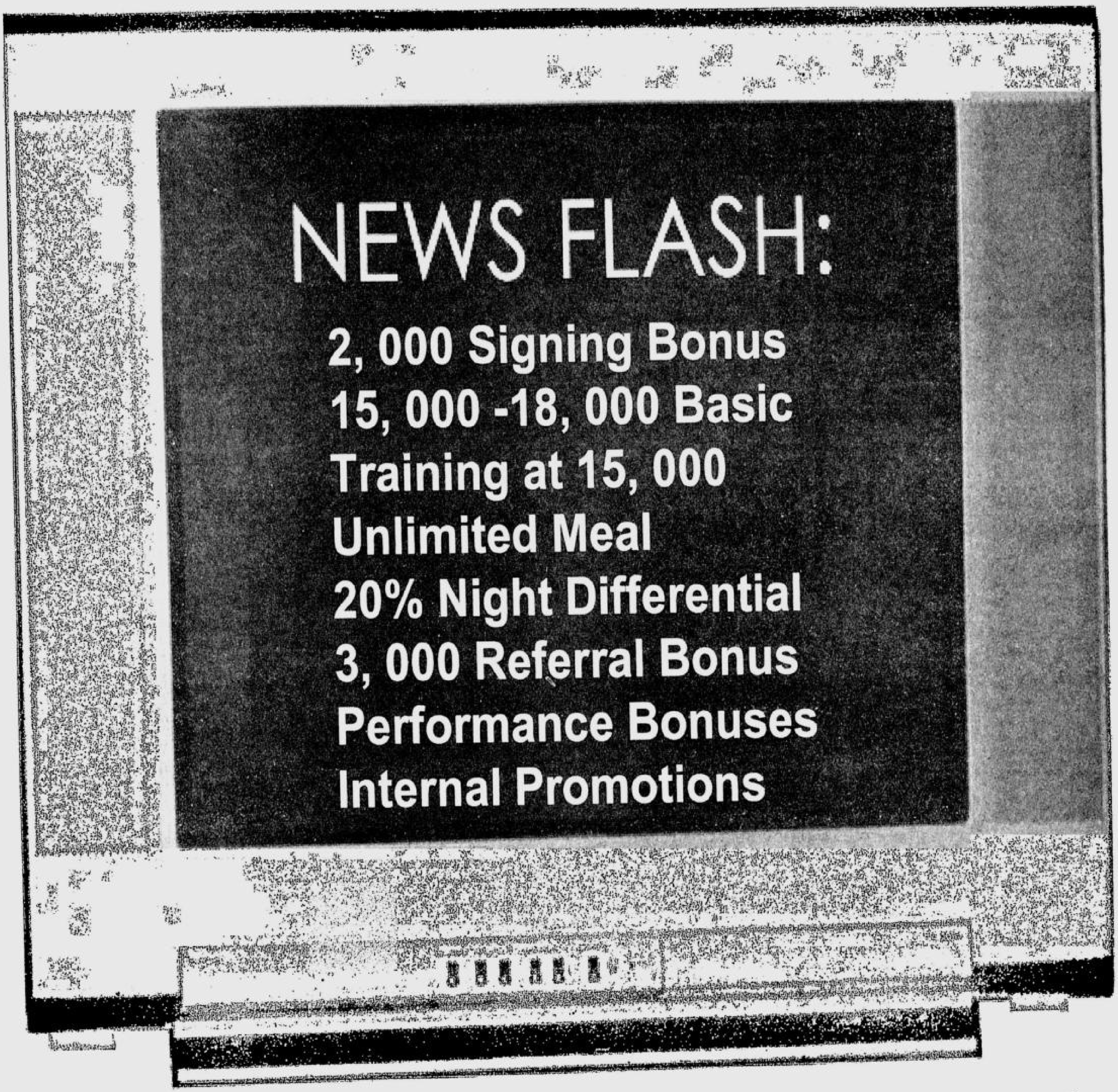
JOB *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Get a copy of JOBMARKET on Sunday Issue of Inquirer
PEOPLE AT WORK ON PAGES 8 & 9

For jobseekers, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

★★★ *Where You Find The Best.*

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



NEWS FLASH:

2, 000 Signing Bonus
15, 000 -18, 000 Basic
Training at 15, 000
Unlimited Meal
20% Night Differential
3, 000 Referral Bonus
Performance Bonuses
Internal Promotions

We need OVER **500** Technical Support Agents, Customer Service Representatives and Telemarketers within the week to join us.

NCO℠
GROUP

Job Fair

January 16 - 19 9AM-5PM
5th Floor Recruitment
ELJ Communication Tower
Mother Ignacia Street, QC

manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

981-7557-60

Asia United Bank

We are looking for highly motivated, competent and dynamic persons to join our team and deliver superior banking services:

HEAD – SPECIALIZED LENDING

- ☐ Spearheads specialized lending projects of the bank
- ☐ Evaluates credit and project investment worthiness of prospective accounts
- ☐ Provides project finance/term financing/recommendations to clients and key company officials
- ☐ Liaises with various government agencies (i.e. DBP, SSS, Landbank) involved in special lending programs to facilitate release of funds to ultimate borrowers and investors
- ☐ With at least 5 years experience in specialized lending, bank relationship management, credit, structured loans, and project finance

REMITTANCE MARKETING OFFICERS

- ☐ He / she will be responsible for the overall introduction, marketing and sales promotion of the Bank's remittance program to the existing and prospective foreign correspondents/tie-ups worldwide
- ☐ Ideal candidates are Business/Management graduates with at least three (3) years of experience in the remittance business of a bank
- ☐ Must have full knowledge of remittance operations, processes, regulations and product features
- ☐ Selling and supervisory skills. Excellent interpersonal skills. Computer literate
- ☐ Open to be assigned in other countries (Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, USA and Milan, Italy)

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- ☐ He / she will be responsible in account solicitation and selling of retail consumer finance products
- ☐ Ideal candidates are Business/Management graduates with at least three (3) years experience of selling consumer related products
- ☐ Selling and supervisory skills. Highly proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate

IT AUDITOR

- ☐ Responsible for reviewing internal controls and security risks of all hardware, application and operating systems of the Information Technology Group
- ☐ Conducts review of new systems developed for the bank and existing applications/systems to ensure data integrity, access control, general system control and maintenance
- ☐ Graduate of Accounting or any business related course. Preferably a licensed CPA
- ☐ With at least three (3) years experience in IT Audit
- ☐ Full knowledge of audit techniques and principles, internal controls, branch operations and internal banking systems

FIELD SALES OFFICERS

- ☐ Responsible for generating CASA deposits for the bank and cross-selling other products and services of the bank
- ☐ Acquires new accounts, maintains and deepens existing relationships with clients, and cross-sells other AUB products and services
- ☐ With at least 2 years related sales experience and with proven track record in sales

TRADE MULTIPROCESSOR

- ☐ Primarily responsible for the processing of various documents needed for the trade products and services offered by the bank
- ☐ Processes payment of final duties and ensures that these are remitted to the proper authorities
- ☐ Ensures that bank guarantees are cancelled and surrendered to the shipping companies and that the reversals and updates are accomplished to reflect such cancellation
- ☐ With at least two to three (2-3) years experience in international operations of a commercial bank
- ☐ Working knowledge of trade transactions, BSP rulings, UCP 500 and URR

MARKETING ASSISTANTS / OFFICERS

- ☐ Qualified candidates will provide administrative support to Account Officers. He/ she will assist in servicing and maintenance of accounts
- ☐ Must be a graduate of a four year business course
- ☐ Excellent customer service orientation. Good verbal/written communication skills. Computer literate

SERVICE MANAGERS

to be assigned at branches in Manila and south of Manila

- ☐ Exercises supervision over tellers and new accounts personnel
- ☐ Acts as primary custodian of cash and other accountable items
- ☐ Helps the Branch operate profitably within defined targets
- ☐ Solicits accounts/cross-sells bank products and services
- ☐ Graduate of any four year business course . With at least 2-3 years work experience

BANK TELLERS AND NEW ACCOUNTS ASSOCIATES

to be assigned at branches in Manila and south of Manila

- ☐ Handles over the counter transactions, account opening and maintenance and contributes to the achievement of branch goals
- ☐ Graduate of any four year business course
- ☐ With previous experience as teller or sales associate is an advantage
- ☐ Ability to speak Chinese Language, also an advantage

Qualified candidates may personally apply from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm or mail/email comprehensive resumé and 2x2 photo to:

Asia United Bank
www.aub.com.ph
Human Resources Management Division
38/F Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig City
humanresources@asiaunited.com.ph:

VALUELiNE

SYSTEMS & SOLUTIONS CORPORATION

Valueline Systems and Solutions Corp. is in urgent need of highly motivated, dynamic, and proficient personnel with the ff. qualifications:

Marketing Officer

- Graduate of Marketing or related courses.
- With experience in Marketing and Handling & Coordinating Events preferably in IT-related companies.
- Results-oriented, Responsible, can work independently within the company's policy, fast learner, willing to grow with the company and flexible.
- Creative, Imaginative, Team player, good listener and highly-motivated.
- With experience in writing press releases and brochures.
- Coordinating liaising with IT principals.
- Computer Literate, with skills in multi-media software.
- Excellent written & oral communication skills.

Sales/Channels Representatives
Telemarketers
Sales Assistant

- Selling Experience preferred. Hardworking with drive to succeed in Sales
- Has the ability to excel in structured environment with proven selling system
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Can deal with people of all levels
- Willing to work long hours.
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Customer oriented, Team Player, Pro-Active attitude with sense of urgency

Apply in Person or send your resumé via email to: hr@valueline.com.ph
Or send them thru snail mail
@ 2nd Flr., J&L Building, #23 Matalino Street, Central District, Diliman, Quezon City.
Tel Nos. (02) 925-22-23/925-76-23/925-21-77

Lenox Hotel

A start up hotel located on Rizal Street, Dagupan City is in search of highly qualified applicants to fill in the following positions:

HEAD CHEF

- 28 to 35 years old, college graduate
- Willing to be based in Pangasinan
- With at least five years experience in a hotel as a Sous Chef or Chef D' Partie
- Culinary skills/specializes in Western or European Cuisine
- Expertise includes: menu planning, food costing, inventory control, staff training, food safety & sanitation
- Strong leadership skills

FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
(Male/Female)

- 29 to 35 years old, college graduate
- Willing to be based in Pangasinan
- With a minimum of three years supervisory experience in the F&B operations of a hotel and/or a Chinese restaurant
- With good English communication skills
- With strong leadership skills
- Skills in skirting, flower arranging, stage decorating, & fruit carvings
- Has experience in handling Chinese laureate & Western banquet service

ASSISTANT CHEF
Chinese cuisine Cantonese Style (Male)

- 25 to 35 years old, college graduate
- Willing to be based in Pangasinan
- With a minimum of five years experience as Assistant Chef or cook 2 in a Chinese restaurant
- Strong leadership skills & can handle Chinese laureate & banquet food preparation
- Knowledgeable in menu planning, food costing, inventory control, food safety & sanitation

Interested applicants should send their resumé through mail or e-mail on or before January 23, 2006.

E-mail address	lenoxhotel@pldtdsl.net
Mail address	Lenox Hotel Rizal Street, Dagupan City
Contact Nos.	075-5158889/075-5231264/075-5157094
Fax	075-5158522

Rexroth
Bosch Group

INTER NORMEN

BOSCH REXROTH EXCLUSIVE SOLE DISTRIBUTOR
INTERNORMEN FILTER EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR

GERMAN HYDRAULIC AND PLANT SERVICE, INC.

We are a well established and growing company which represents, distributes and services products of one of the world leading manufacturer of Industrial Mobile Hydraulic as well as the exclusive distributor of Internormen Filter Technology Products in the Philippines.

As part of our 2006 expansion we are in **immediate** need of aggressive dynamic individuals with the following qualifications for the following position.

SALES ENGINEER – Male

- ➢ Four (4) yr. College graduate of Mechanical, Electrical or Industrial Engineering course;
- ➢ Presentable, hardworking and possessing a strong desire to succeed in the field of selling or related marketing, frequent traveling, meeting and winning people, result-oriented; with a good track record, expanding accounts and capable of making effective and required sales target;
- ➢ Must have good English and verbal communication skills & computer literate in MS Office
- ➢ Must possess a valid driver's license;

For the right person this position has potential for future growth.

To the qualified applicants, we offer the following:

- ☐ Competitive Salary, Allowance, Commission for Sales
- ☐ Local and International Training
- ☐ Career Growth

Interested applicants are requested to send or hand-carry their resume, detailed work experience, latest ID photo, school and employment credentials at:

Unit 2 Southway Building
Yakal corner Mayapis Street
San Antonio Village, Makati City

3M PHILIPPINES, INC. is a subsidiary of a world-class organization with headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota USA. Throughout the world, 3M leads in Innovation and Quality and is consistently voted as one of America's most admired corporations for many years now.

Our search for world-class team players continues:

SR. SALES SPECIALIST

Electronic Products Division (Code: SRSS-EPD0106)
The successful candidate will be responsible for achieving sales objectives and developing new business in the assigned markets of Electronic Products Division.

- ☐ Graduate of Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) or related fields
- ☐ At least 3 years experience selling to semiconductor manufacturing market
- ☐ Excellent Verbal, Written Communication and Presentation Skills
- ☐ Strong Interpersonal Skills
- ☐ Computer proficient (i.e. MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint, Sales Statistics)

SR. MARKETING SPECIALIST

Communications Market Division (Code: SRMS-CMD0106)
Responsible for developing, driving, and monitoring the successful implementation of marketing plans for Communications Markets Division.

- ☐ Graduate of EE, ECE, Computer Engineering, Computer Science or MIS; MBA degree an advantage
- ☐ In-depth experience in Telecommunications and Information Technology industries, specifically, handling copper, fiber optics, wireless and OEM products
- ☐ Excellent Verbal, Written Communication and Presentation Skills
- ☐ Good Business Acumen
- ☐ Computer proficiency (MS Excel, MS PowerPoint and MS Word)

THE PACKAGE
3M Philippines' compensation and benefits program is one of the best in the industry and have been carefully designed to meet the employees' needs as well as their dependents.

We are inviting potential candidates especially to those with background in **Sales, Marketing, Finance, Customs Care, Logistics and Information Technology** who are looking for excellent opportunities for career growth and training to send their resumés for pooling purposes.

3M Philippines, Inc.
18th Floor Equitable-PCI Tower II, Makati Ave., Makati City
Attn: Human Resources Department (Code: ________)
e-mail: ph-3mhr@mmm.com
Visit us at http://www.3m.com/ph

3M Human Resources Principles
We respect the dignity and worth of all individuals, we encourage the initiative of each employee, challenge individual capabilities and provide equal opportunity for development

3M

JUMBO

www.jumboship.nl

Kahn Scheepvaart BV **(JUMBO SHIPPING)** with POEA Accreditation Cert. No. 25865-1 is best described as a heavy lift transport and engineering company. As managers of a fleet of purpose-built heavy lift ships, we combine 30 years of sea transport experience with expertise in pre- and on-carriage of industrial cargo.

For our J-class vessels we are presently in need for **Electrical Technicians** that meet the following qualifications:

A.) Licensed Electrical Engr or Electronics Engr (ECE)
B.) Experience as an Electro-automation technician (electrical and electronics combined)
C.) Must have knowledge in troubleshooting of PLC / electronics automation and industrial motor starter (Multi speed motor and frequency speed motor controller)
D.) Computer literate specially with files / directory management and knowledge of logic operators (AND, NAND, OR, NOR, NOT etc...)
E.) With relevant work experience of at least two years
F.) Capable of working without supervision
G.) Familiarity with calibration of telemeters like temperature, pressure and level transmitters (4..20 mA, 0..20 mA and 0-10V) is a pre.

You first will be placed on board under supervision of an experienced Electrical Technician to get acquainted with the work on board until you are considered to be qualified to work independently.

Furthermore **JUMBO** can always use experienced and independent working 2nd and 3rd **Engineers**, young, fit and ambitious **A/B's**, flexible, inventive **Cooks** and skilled **Welders**.

So, when you have the above qualifications and you are willing to learn and invest time and effort in your own future, please come in person or send your resume at:

SEALANES MARINE SERVICES, INC.
Pryce Center 8/F
1179 Chino Roces Ave. cor Bagtikan St.
Makati City
e-mail: sms@mits-dcl.com.ph

Deadline of submission: January 18, 2006

Change the Rules. Build Solutions. Achieve Success.
Xpress Media, a Singapore-based specialist communications group, invites dynamic and creative individuals to join us.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES/SPECIALISTS
(COMMUNICATIONS/ADVERTISING)
Key Responsibilities:

1. Marketing and Business Development
   - ☑ strategize pitches for new accounts
   - ☑ close deals on new pitches
   - ☑ meet specified sales target
2. Account Management
   - ☑ conceptualization and production of collateral such as annual reports, brochures, etc.
   - ☑ copywriting of key corporate communications collateral
   - ☑ coordination and liaison between clients and production team
3. Advertising and Events Management
   - ☑ develop communications and marketing strategies
   - ☑ strategize and direct media campaigns
   - ☑ media planning and buying

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Requisites:

- ☑ Graduate of Bachelor of Fine Arts
- ☑ A strong commercial and corporate desig portfolio
- ☑ Minimum of 3 years experience in graphic desig
- ☑ Knowledge of graphic design softwares such as Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator or any related design software
- ☑ Familiarity in web designing is an advantage
- ☑ PC and Mac Oriented
- ☑ Must be able to bring to life concepts, ideas and visions, transforming them to a tangible message for the target audience
- ☑ Must be skilled at not only creating good visualization, but communicating and preparing that work for other associated parties involved such as printers, magazines, newspapers etc.
- ☑ Must be prepared to work long hours

Requisites for AE
☑ top 20% of graduating class of the ff. universities:
• University of the Philippines • De La Salle University
• Ateneo de Manila University • University of Santo Tomas
☑ Strong command of written and spoken English ☑ Excellent marketing and presentation skills
☑ Tenacity to work in a fast paced environment ☑ Good software knowledge such as Word, Excel
☑ Minimum 3 years experience with a publishing or advertising agency
☑ Degree in Journalism, Marketing/Mass Communications or English Language ☑ Single

Successful candidates will be offered attractive remuneration package. Please forward resume with a non-returnable photograph to:

Xpress Media Philippines, Inc.
5/F The Linden Suites, 17 San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email: cristina_cueva@xpress.com.sg

URGENT HIRING!!!

A US based company, specializing in creative services,
is looking to fill the following positions:

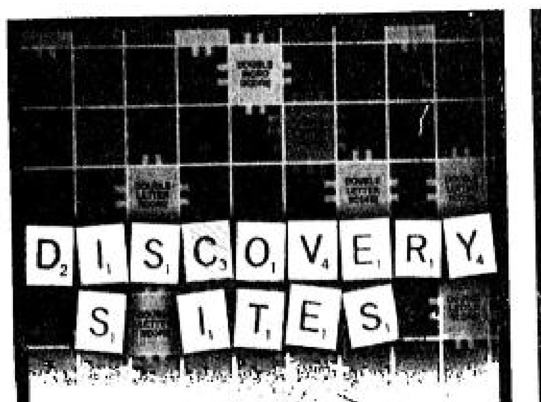
GRAPHIC ARTISTS

Looking for highly creative self-starters,
that can work on a variety of subjects in a fast-paced environment
Well-versed in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator,
Corel and Freehand.
Can fluently converse in English and participate in brainstorming
sessions with client.
At least 1 year experience in lay-outing of different
types of collaterals and print materials.
Graduate of Fine Arts or related courses.

WEB DESIGNERS

Requires innovative individuals that can work with
minimum supervision.
Flexible with diverse products to work
with in fast moving set-up.
Above average skills in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver,
Flash, HTML and JAVA Script Encoding.
Graduate of Fine Arts or related courses

ABOVE AVERAGE COMPENSATION AWAITS QUALIFIED APPLICANTS.
E-MAIL YOUR RESUME TO nina@laurensilva.com



Are U the missing piece?

If U are people-oriented,
then we need U.
Double or triple your score,
if U have hotel experience
or if U are an HRM graduate
Who knows,
U may just complete
the puzzle.

Positions that score:

-Front Office Manager
-F&B Supervisor
-HR Assistant
-Purchasing Associate
-Graphic Designer
-Guest Services Associate
(for Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay)

For further details
and online applications, please visit
www.discoverysuites.com

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DISCOVERY Suites

One Discovery A Day

Discovery Suites
Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay
Discovery Shores Boracay, Opening 2006

CROWN SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

We are a provider of IT driven Project Management Systems and we represent PRIMAVERA SYSTEMS of USA. We help our clients successfully manage their businesses by implementing project management systems. We are looking for competent and passionate individuals for the following positions:

Account Manager (1)

- Female, at least 25 years of age
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- Computer literate, familiar with popular application software
- Good in oral and written communication
- Willing to work overtime
- Willing to take on field work
- With pleasing & outgoing personality
- Previous sales experience a plus but not required

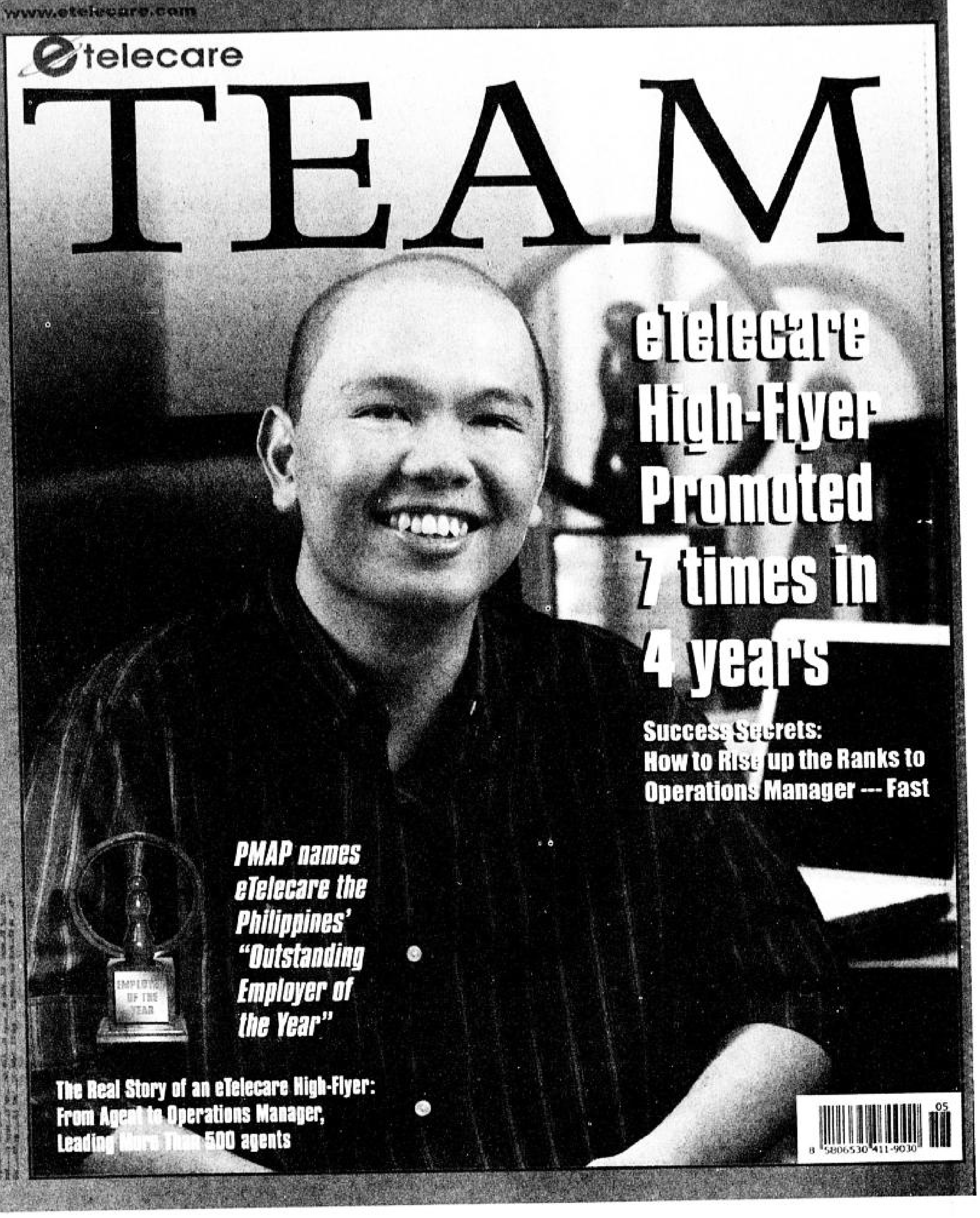
Sales Assistant (1)

- Female, at least 25 years of age
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- Computer literate, familiar with popular application softwares
- Good in oral and written communication
- Willing to work overtime

Competitive compensation package inclusive of basic salary allowance, incentives and commissions for sales positions. Interested parties are requested to send their resumés with photo to:

Crown Systems International, Inc.
Unit 1011, 10th Floor, Herrera Tower
98 V.A. Rufino Tower cor. Valero Streets
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
or email at agnscon@crownsys.com

P4,000 JOINING BONUS to all agent hires available for employment by Jan. 23!


www.etelecare.com
etelecare
TEAM
eTelecare High-Flyer Promoted 7 times in 4 years
Success Secrets: How to Rise up the Ranks to Operations Manager --- Fast
PMAP names eTelecare the Philippines' "Outstanding Employer of the Year"
EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR
The Real Story of an eTelecare High-Flyer: From Agent to Operations Manager, Leading More Than 500 agents

Your success story can be our next cover.

If you have what it takes to get promoted 2-3 times a year, solve complex problems and contribute to our fun and supportive environment, come and join us at eTelecare, the country's Employer of the Year.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Technical Support Representatives
- Inbound/Outbound Sales Associates
- Applications Developers
- IT Project Leaders
- Management Recruitment Coordinator
- Customer Service & Financial Associates
- Quality Assurance Associates (Spanish)
- Senior Applications Developers
- Corporate Asset Management Specialist

etelecare GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

The World's Most Awarded Call Center Company

Call our recruiting hotlines:

Manila: 580-6530 Cebu: (032) 411-9030

Eastwood • Makati • Cebu • www.etelecare.com
manilarecruiting@etelecare.com • ceburecruiting@etelecare.com

---

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNT MANAGER (SALES)

Will perform sales related work including acquisition and maintenance of clients. 21 to 27 yrs. old. College graduate. Call Lalaine at 8137616 or 8158744 for details.

WANTED

Sales Representatives for Plastic Bags & Pouches

Apply at:
#9 Gen. Malvar St.,
Bagong Barrio,
Caloocan City

MACHINE SHOP MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

Lic. ME / IE grad. w/ exp. Good communication, leadership skills. Knows ISO, 5S, GMP, MSOfc, AutoCAD
0917-8388472 or 3710771

SECRETARY / BK KPR

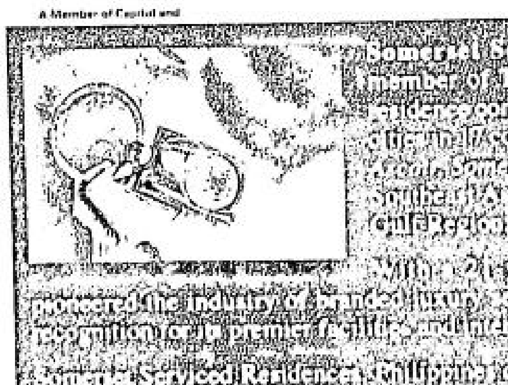
College grad, M/F, good communication & computer skills, w/ exp in inventory, payroll, HR
0917-8388472 or 3710771

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market

ASCOTT
A Member of CapitaLand

SOMERSET
SERVICED RESIDENCES



Somerset Serviced Residences, Philippines is a member of The Ascott Group, a leading serviced residence company with over 15,000 units spanning 40 cities in 17 countries. The Group is represented by *The Ascott*, *Somerset* and *Citadines* brands in North Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia & New Zealand, Europe and Gulf Region.

With a 21-year track record, The Ascott Group pioneered the industry of branded luxury serviced residences and enjoys worldwide recognition for its premier facilities and international standard of service.

Somerset Serviced Residences, Philippines continues to move towards setting industry benchmarks as the leading serviced residence company in the Philippines and now you can be part of our winning team.

AREA DIRECTOR, SALES & MARKETING

As the head of the Sales Team of Somerset Serviced Residences, Philippines you will lead the property Sales Managers in forming strategic initiatives to drive business results for our three properties. You will spearhead implementation of marketing campaigns designed to improve our client base, identify and pursue new business channels and brand development avenues, and maximize yield.

Requirements:

- Minimum of 5 years experience as a Director of Sales in a highly regarded Serviced Residence and / or Hotel, or establishments related to the industry
- Degree in Business Management, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Tourism from a reputable university
- Excellent interpersonal and communications skills / excellent spoken and written English
- Innovative, resourceful and proficient in Microsoft Office programs
- Presentable, assertive, driven and can thrive in a very competitive and results-driven environment

If you want to experience a world of opportunities and nurture a career in our growing international serviced residence company, please send your comprehensive resume and 2 x 2 picture in confidence to:

MANAGER, HUMAN RESOURCE
SOMERSET MILLENNIUM, MAKATI
No 104 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City Philippines 1229
Or send online to enquiry.manila@the-ascott.com

Selected candidates shall be notified.

JARDINE TECHNICAL SERVICES (JTS)

JTS is part of the highly respected Jardine Engineering Group providing a range of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) plus related equipment maintenance, installation and engineering services to major local and multinational companies.

Fast establishing itself as the market leader with an enviable reputation for quality and service, JTS is embarking on a major expansion program and now requires

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

The Technical Services Manager will head the 200 plus strong Operations Group providing Maintenance and Repair services to high profile clients

Applicants must have:

- Mechanical, Electrical or Management Engineering qualifications
- Management experience in a large manufacturing or maintenance operation
- Knowledge of Work Estimate and Contract Preparation and Administration
- Knowledge of Quality Maintenance Programs such as TPM / RCM
- Experience in working with HVAC, utilities or related equipment

This is a senior career position with a respected multinational. The opportunities for structured training and advancement are excellent. Regular performance reviews feedback and coaching are given to support employee development.

Financial and benefit packages are very competitive.

Please send your resume (including current salary details) by post, email or fax to

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Email. HRD@jdigroup.com / Fax No 844-7022

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

a great opportunity for

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

- .male or female
- .great talent in drawing / sketching
- .proficient with ADOBE PHOTOSHOP
- .a degree in Advertising is an advantage
- .fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

visit us at:
2nd Floor, Bonifacio Stopover Plaza
Fort Bonifacio Global City
(beside Shell Gasoline Station, above Starbucks)
for appointment, please call.
(02) 816-7683 to 84
9:00 am - 6:00 pm
look for Brian Rea
or email your resume and sample works at:
brian@gw-architects.com

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acer

Acer, one of the top and leading PC vendor in the Philippines is inviting experienced, people-oriented and top caliber professional to fill in the position of:

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

- male/female, with at least 2-3 years experience in doing pre-sales activities, technical support and product training for Server and Desktop PC.

CHANNEL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- with excellent knowledge and experience in computer retail business.
- at least 2 to 3 years IT-related work experience in the same capacity.

We are looking for applicants who are:
- graduates from reputable universities
- flexible, pro-active, goal-oriented, highly motivated
- excellent communication skills

Interested applicants must submit their resumé with recent 2x2 colored ID photo not later than January 22, 2006 at the following address:

Acer Philippines, Inc.
Human Resource Department
Unit 3401 34thF PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue, cor. Herrera St., 1226 Makati City
or e-mail: cecille mauri@acer.com.ph

WANTED SEAMEN!!!

FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT TO OUR CRUDE/PRODUCT/CHEMICAL TANKERS
(Principal's Accreditation Cert. No. 000813)

MASTER
- (Salary - US$ 6,341 per month)
- Not more than 54 years old

CHIEF ENGINEER
- (Salary - US$ 6,039 per month)
- Not more than 54 years old

CHIEF OFFICER
- (Salary - US$ 4,245 per month)
- Not more than 45 years old

1st ASST. ENGINEER
- (Salary - US$ 4,000 per month)
- Not more than 45 years old

SECOND OFFICER
- (Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)
- Not more than 35 years old

2nd ASST. ENGINEER
- (Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)
- Not more than 35 years old

THIRD OFFICER
- (Salary - US$ 2,335 per month)
- Not more than 30 years old

3rd ASST. ENGINEER
- (Salary - US$ 2,335 per month)
- Not more than 30 years old

ELECTRICIAN
(Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)

PUMPMAN
(Salary - US$ 1,737 per month)

FITTER
(Salary - US$ 1,737 per month)

NOTE: FOR PETTY OFFICERS POSITION
- Not more than 40 years old
- At least 5 years Tanker Experience
- With minimum of 1 year Experience on the Position applied

AMOSUP BENEFITS + COMPANY BONUSES

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF ALL VALID DOCUMENTS
Your career advancement is assured!!
Full Filipino Crew!

REPORT TO:
OSG SHIP MANAGEMENT MANILA, INC.
Suite 1208 Ermita Center Bldg.,
1350 Roxas Blvd., Manila
TEL. NOS. 536-3496 / 536-2150
POEA License No. 001-SB-042005-UL

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"Mag-ingat sa mga illegal recruiters"
No Fees to be collected!

YSTILO SALON
YSTILO SALON CORPORATION

Immediate Hiring

COMPUTER SYSTEM SUPPORT
- Either Computer Engineering or Computer Science Course Graduate.
- Proficient in PC / Hardware Troubleshooting, Software Installation and Networking is an advantage.
- Proficient in MS Office Application such as Power Point, Word, Excel and others.
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy and can develop good rapport.
- Able to solve problems analytically, creatively and effectively.
- Has a good oral and written communication skill.
- Willing to assist client and work on extended hours during weekends and Holidays or as needed.
- Dedicated and TEAM player & can handle pressure

STORE MANAGERS (Female)/RECEPTIONISTS (Female)
- BS Management Graduate or any related course with or without salon experience.
- Has an excellent oral and written communication skill in English and Tagalog.
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy and can develop good rapport with co-employees.
- With pleasing personality.
- Preferably with experience in fastfood chains.
- Dedicated and TEAM player & can handle pressure.
- Computer literate and willing to assist client and work on extended hours during weekends and Holidays or as needed.
- For Receptionists - College Level/Graduate.

Interested qualified applicants may send their resumé at:
Unit 1501, West Trade Center, 132 West Avenue,
1100 Quezon City.
Tel. Nos. 374-7149 to 51 / 426-4591
or thru e-mail: hrd@ystilosalon.com

ROI Retail Operators Inc.

SALES ASSOCIATES/STORE SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:
- Graduate of business related course from a reputable university or college
- Relevant work experience gained from a retail environment is an advantage
- Has good command of oral and written English
- Driven, charming, patient and has pleasing personality
- Male or female
- At least 22-29 years old

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE

Qualifications:
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong customer service orientation
- Preferably with one year experience in customer service orientation gained from a retail or service environment
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Must be fluent in the English language both oral and written
- Has pleasing personality
- At least 25-29 years old
- Preferably female

ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE

Qualifications:
- Graduate of BS Accountancy course from a reputable university or college
- Can ably deal with top level officers of the company
- Knowledgeable of all accounting procedures and system
- Willing to work long hours specially during summer and peak seasons
- Has excellent computer skills in excel
- Personable and has good command of the English language
- Male or Female

OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE

Qualifications:
- Graduate of management related course from a reputable university or college
- Can ably deal with top level officers of the company
- Relevant inventory work experience is an advantage
- Has excellent computer skills in excel
- Personable and has good command of the English language
- Preferably male
- At least 22-29 years old

IT OFFICER

Qualifications:
- Graduate of IT-related course from a reputable university or college
- Experience on both Windows and UNIX operating systems
- Expertise with medium-to-large scale development projects
- Has good command of oral and written English
- At least 3-5 working years experience in information technology
- Ability to work with other IT professionals
- Male or female
- At least 24-27 years old

Interested Applicants may drop their comprehensive resume with recent photo to the address below or may come personally on Mon-Fri 1PM-6PM at:

Human Resources Department
Unit 1504 15/F Orient Square Bldg.
F. Ortigas Jr. (Formerly Emerald Ave.)
Ortigas Center Pasig City
Or email: roi.hr@eastern.com.ph
Contact Person: Ms. Shane Tarrayo

Affiliate Companies: TechnoMarine GENEVE MORELLATO

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Foundation University Main Campus
Dr. Miciano Road, Dumaguete City
(035) 422 2294
(0917) 314 3930

or email us at:
careers@entheosit.com

Please submit your Application Letter, Resume, Transcript of Records and Certicates of Employment not later than January 25, 2006.

www.entheosit.com **think about IT**

ACCOUNTANTS

Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- Proficient in Word and Excel
- Preferably with previous working experience
- With excellent communication skills

Interested accountants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials Mondays to Wednesdays, 8:00 to 11:00 AM:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center
Sedeño corner Valero Street
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City

Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme is . offering an employment opportunity for

Logistician

Within the context of Oxfam's development philosophy and its programme in the Philippines, to provide logistics support for Oxfam programmes in the Philippines.

Key Responsibilities:
- To organize all logistics processes, including purchasing, warehousing, communications and transport, as well as the related administrative procedures, for Oxfam operations
- To supervise and support logistics personnel working for Oxfam
- To maintain logistic contracts and outsourcing capabilities for the humanitarian programme
- To implement and monitor logistics systems, in accordance with Oxfam GB policies and procedures
- To establish and maintain good contacts with suppliers, government offices, UN agencies and other NGOs with regards to logistical matters
- To report monthly on all logistical activities to the Line Manager
- To assist the Humanitarian Programme Coordinator with logistics advice during the drawig up of new project proposals
- To maintain a preparedness capacity for future emergency operations

Key competencies
- Diplomacy, tact and negotiating skills
- Team working skills
- Flexibility under pressure and in response to changing needs
- Attention to detail and excellent numeric skills
- Good experience in purchasing, warehousing, vehicle management and administration
- Practical experience in working HF and VHF radios
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting gender equality
- Good written and spoken English
- Ability to keep clear and concise records

Desirable competencies
- Financial management ability
- Experience in supervising staff
- At least 5 years of Logistical Management experience in a development or relief setting

This is a fixed assignment for six (6) months with possibility of extension. Interested applicants should submit application letter and CV to:

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN
95-A Malumanay Street
Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: 927-0499 email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk
Deadline of application : 10 February 2006

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEW. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY.

QUEZON CITY RED CROSS

A Chapter of the Philippines National Red Cross Since 1948
Civic Center, Quezon City Hall Cmpd., Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 920-3672/433-2151

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The Quezon City Red Cross is inviting qualified applicants for the following positions:

1. Community Development Officer
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably in the field of Social Work/Social Sciences, Psychology, Sociology and Mass Communication
- Minimum of 2 years actual working experience in similar capacity
- Computer literate
- Good Command of the English language (written & oral)

2. Bookkeeper
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce/Business Administration preferably major in accounting
- Two or more years actual experience
- Computer Literate
- Good command of the English language (oral & written)

3. Chapter Service Representative on Fund Raising
- At least a Degree in Business Administration/Commerce major in Accounting/Banking or Finance
- At least 2 years experience in fund raising activities
- Computer literate
- Good command of the English language
- Can conceptualize, plan and implement fund raising programs/activities

4. Chapter Service Representative on Red Cross Youth
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Computer literate
- Good command of the English language (written & oral)
- Can conceptualize, plan and implement programs and activities under Red Cross Youth

5. Chapter Representative on Volunteer Service
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably Social Work or Social Sciences
- Computer literate
- Good command of the English language (written & oral)
- Can conceptualize, plan and implement programs and activities under Volunteer Services

6. International Humanitarian Law Coordinator
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Computer literate
- Good command of the English language (written & oral)
- Adequate knowledge of Red Cross policies, rules, procedures or operating guideline

7. Information Technology Officer
- Possession of Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Busines Administration or related field
- Ability to read English effectively
- At least with one (1) year of professional and technical computer information technology systems experience such as programming, computer systems, analysis, design and or the administration of a mainframe

8. Communication Specialist (Communication and Media P.R.)
- With a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Advertising or Communications
- At least 1 year of solid writing and editing experience
- Ability to work under deadline pressure and extra hours if needed on assignments

Applicants are requested to submit their Comprehensive Resumé and other pertinent documents on or before **January 20, 2006 at Quezon City Red Cross Chapter.**

"Saving lives since 1948"

Blood Services * Disaster Management Services * Safety Services * Community Health and Nursing Services * Social Services * Red Cross Youth

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SALES ENGINEERS
- Graduates of Engineering, preferably Electrical
- Male, 21-35 years old
- Proficient communication skills in English, Pilipino and/or Chinese
- Effective skills in interpersonal relations
- Confident, outgoing personality, and street-smart in sporting business opportunities
- Willing to accept provincial assignments

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- Accounting Graduates
- Female, 21-35 years old
- Proficient in computer operation skills including Windows software
- Preferably Chinese speaking
- Well-organized, time-wise and able to work well under pressure

SECRETARY
- Graduate of any business course
- Female, 21-35 years old
- Proficient in computer operation skills including Windows software
- Proficient communication skills in English, Pilipino and/or Chinese
- Well-organized, time-wise and able to work well under pressure

Apply personally at 2209 Jose Abad Santos Avenue near Batangas St., Tondo, Manila with bio-data sheets, 1" x 1" ID photo and transcript of records.

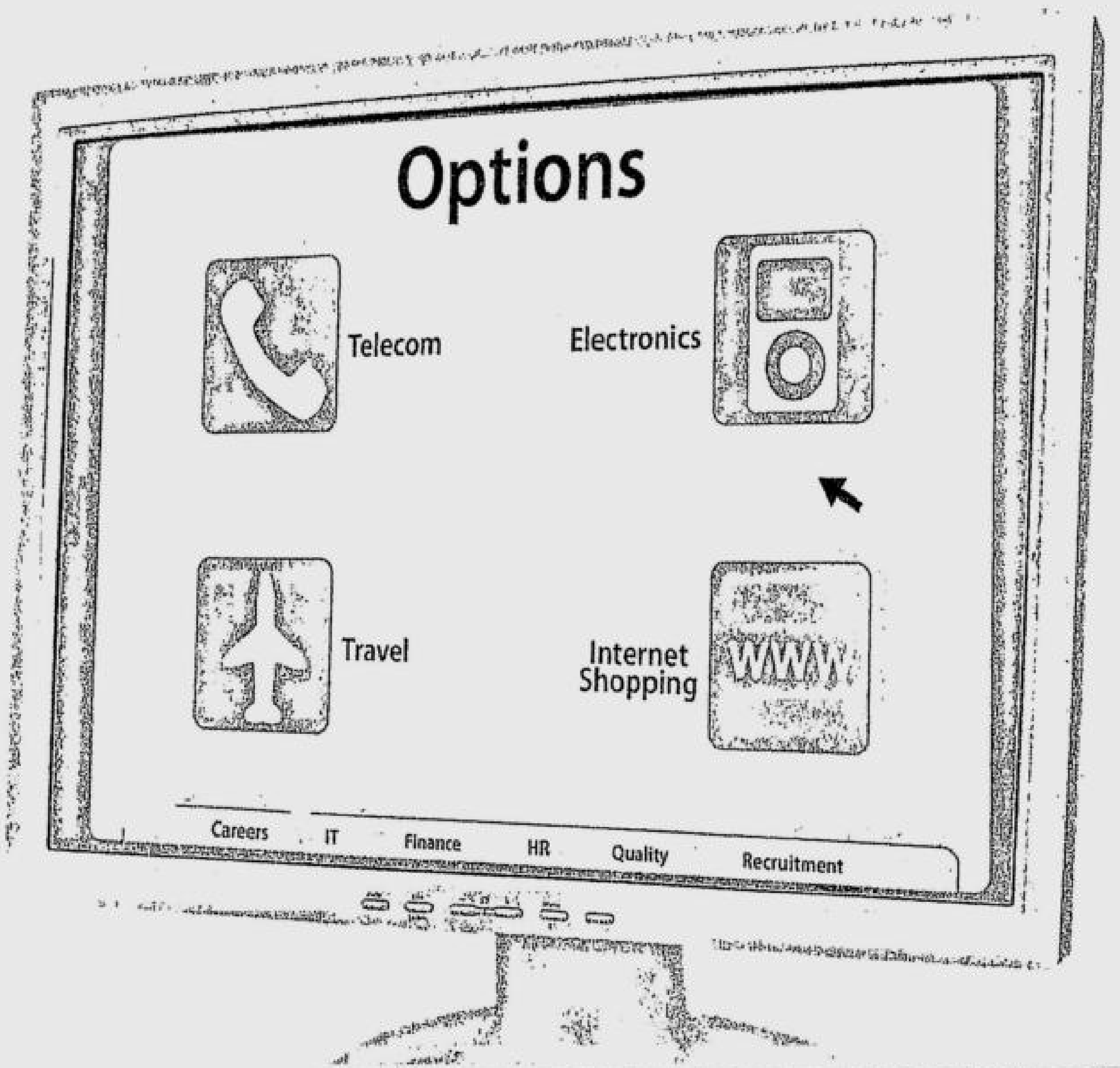
e-mail: yekacctg@pldtdsl.net

IBM

What IBM Daksh Career would you like to have?

The superb thing about IBM Daksh Careers is that it not only gives you a chance to get you on the career path you like. It also gives you unlimited options for your future. Being a part of the world's Largest IT and Business Solutions Company, there's no telling how far you can go.

Sounds Good? Apply now at our Recruitment Centers at
30/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue Makati and
3/F Edsa Central Pavilion, Shaw Boulevard cor. Edsa, Mandaluyong



Now hiring the pioneer team for our Electronics and Travel Accounts!

Successful technophile applicants can get a chance to win an iPod while travel enthusiasts can win a weekend getaway for two!

IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INC.

Now hiring young, ambitious graduates to fortify the newest IBM network in Southeast Asia!

Customer Care Specialists for Fortune 500 Companies

- Telecommunications (Voice Support)
- Travel (Voice Support)
- Australian Query Management Account (Voice Support)
- Consumer Electronics (Voice Support)
- Internet Shopping Company (Email Support)
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support)
    - HR back office support (Speaks Thai)
    - HR back office support (Speaks Mandarin)
- Digital Imaging Company (Voice Support)
    - HR back office support (Speaks German or French)

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Bachelor's degree
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Support & Leadership Posts

- Operations Manager
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Quality Consultant (Speaks Thai)
- Financial Planning Manager
- Treasury Accountant
- Data Network Specialists
- Implementation Manager
- Deputy Manager - Sourcing
- Sr. Recruitment Associate - Sourcing

Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

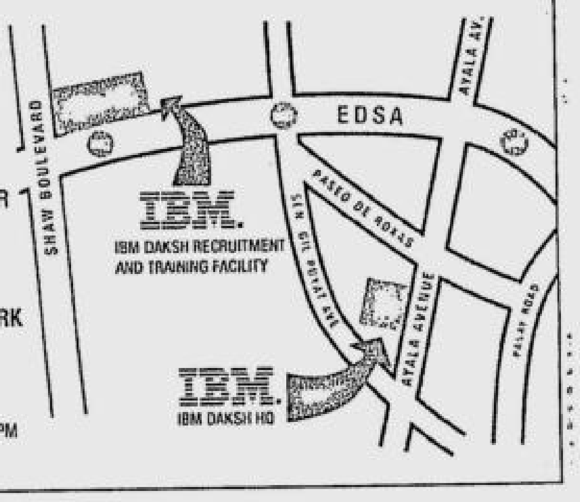
Call our Recruitment Hotline: **840-6020**

or email your resume to: **applications@daksh.com.ph**

IBM DAKSH HEADQUARTERS
30/F PBCom Tower,
Ayala Avenue Makati

IBM DAKSH RECRUITMENT CENTER
3/F Edsa Central Pavilion
Edsa cor Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

IBM DAKSH GREENPARK VILLAGE JOB FAIR
Eusebio Hall, Panama corner
Washington St., Greenpark
Village Manggahan Pasig
January 21, 2006. 10 AM - 5 PM



JOB VACANCIES

A SHIPPING COMPANY IN THE PHILIPPINES SERVICING USA, EUROPE, AUSTRALIA AND INTER-ASIA CONTAINER SERVICE IS IN NEED OF:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

MALE/FEMALE, 24-28 YRS. OLD, COLLEGE GRADUATE MAJOR IN MARKETING, PREFERABLY WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF SALES AND MARKETING HAVING BEEN EXPOSED TO SHIPPING. FRESH COLLEGE GRADUATE INCLINED TO SALES WORK ARE WELCOME. CAN SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND CHINESE LANGUAGE IS AN ADVANTAGE.

SECRETARIES

FEMALE, 24-28 YEARS OLD, COLLEGE GRADUATE. CAN SPEAK, READ, WRITE IN FOOKIEN AND MANDARIN, KNOWLEDGE IN MS OFFICE, PRESENTABLE, WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY AND HARDWORKING.

Apply at: **SKY INTERNATIONAL, INC.**, 10th Flr. Sky I Tower, #68 Dasmariñas St., Binondo, Manila from Tuesday to Thursday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Tel. # 243-0201 to 12 or send your resumé to recruitment@skyintl.com.ph

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FINANCE MANAGER

A PEZA-Registered and Multinational European Company based in the PEZA Cavite Economic Zone, Rosario, Cavite is looking for a Finance Manager.

The candidate must be a Certified Public Accountant and must possess the necessary skills for the job. Interested parties may send their Bio-Data, pictures and other relevant documents to Suite 7B, the Valero Tower, 122 Valero Street, Makati City, Metro Manila – Attn.: FER by Friday, 20 January 2006 at the latest.

JOB Market
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

An established, private, not-for-profit, organization working in the field of Enterprise Development

is in need of a

Chief Finance Officer

Requirements:

- Three years in a similar or equivalent position
- Certified Public Accountant
- Computer Know How (MS Word, Excel)

Please forward your letter of application and resumé to janekslab@yahoo.com or mail to
1209 West Tower PSEC Exchange Road,
Pasig City, M.M.

An International Engineering Consultancy would like to employ: -

Business Development Manager

- Degree in civil engineering or marine science
- Knowledge in offshore, coastal, water resource management or geotechnical works
- Excellent contact with Government Authorities

Please apply enclosing a detailed CV to email address: mho@dhi.com.my before the 31st of January 2006.

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faro

We invite applications for:

FASHION STYLISTS

Male or female/ College Graduate/ Highly interested in fashion and retailing/ With strong leadership and communication skills/ Highly presentable and friendly/ Willing to work on weekends and holidays/ Competence in fashion, color and design would be an advantage.

SALES CONSULTANTS

Female/ Completed at least 2 years of college, technical or vocational education/ Interested in fashion and sales/ Has initiative and is hard working/ Has pleasing personality/ Willing to work on weekends and holidays/ Familiarity in retailing and fashion would be an advantage/ Must be chubby or plump

ACCOUNTANT

CPA/ With at least 2 years working experience/ Knowledgeable in preparing accurate Financial Statement/ With Knowledge in QuickBooks/ With Knowledge of Government laws, codes and regulations/ Possess good working attitude education

VISUAL MERCHANDISER

Male or female/ College Degree in Arts/ Has an artistic ability with a good sense of color and style/ Has an understanding of how lighting works to enchance displays/ Creative/ Imaginative and must be able to come up with original ideas/ Good planning skills/ An appreciation of what image our business is trying to project/ Enjoy artistic activites/ Good drawing and designing abilities/ Willing to work on per project basis

Applicants should submit their resumé with latest 2x2 photo, and portfolio to:

BCFC INCORPORATED

Attention: Ms. Myla Monica Tayson
#8 San Manuel St., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Telefax 631 4200, E-mail faro@philonline.com
Mondays-Fridays 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Deadline of Submission: January 31, 2005 (Tuesday)

BAKERS

A bakery would like to hire professional bakers with the following qualifications:

- An experience in one of the country's best known bakers
- Experience in making the following:
    - Bread and Sandwiches
    - French pastries
    - Pizza
    - Brownies and Cinnamons
    - Cakes (Mocha, Carrot, Honey, Cheese, Strawberry, Chocolate...)
    - Fruit and Apple Pies

Salaries are very attractive. Qualified applicants should pass an interview and an actual test. Please text 09159299061 for an interview date.

PHILAM SAVINGS BANK

a member company of the CONSUMER FINANCE GROUP (CFG) of AIG, the leading US – based international insurance organization and the PHILAM GROUP, is inviting dynamic professionals and fresh graduates to explore these career opportunities:

Product Manager (Code: PM)

- Must have 3 - 5 years experience in marketing specifically product management of bank products and services.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Auditors (Code: Aud)

- Must have at least 2 years experience in Internal Audit preferably gained from a bank or financial institution
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Credit Officer (Code: CO)

- Must have at least 2 years experience in credit analysis and evaluation of applications for consumer loans such as auto, personal or housing loan.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Loans Operations Officer – San Fernando, Pampanga (Code: LOO)

- Must have at least 2 years experience in consumer loans documentation and processing, in a supervisory capacity, preferably gained from a bank or financial institution.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

RPG Programmers (Code: PRGR)

- Must have at least 2 - 3 years experience in systems analysis, design and programming using RPG/ILE, preferably gained from a bank or financial institution.
- Background in ICBS preferred.

Customer Service Representatives (Code: CSR)
Universal Tellers (Code: UT)
Credit Investigators - Pampanga and Batangas (Code: CI)
Loans Processors - Batangas (Code: LP)

- These positions are open to fresh graduates with pleasant disposition, customer service orientation and well developed communication and interpersonal skills.
- Must be computer literate.

Interested applicants are advised to bring or send their resume, transcript of records and 2X2 photos no later than 3 February 2006 to:

Code: ________
Human Resource Division
2/F Salustiana D. Ty Tower,
104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village,
Makati City 1229
e-mail: PSB_Recruitment@aig.com

ILDAEIL-EDU, INC.
International Education Center

We are a PEZA-registered company located in RCBC Plaza, Makati City. We are pioneers in providing cutting-edge service for English as a Second Language to our clients in Korea. We aim for international standards in our programs, and have full-time positions for applicants who are:

- ✓ **Teachers**
- ✓ **Those with the Passion to Teach**
- ✓ **University or Graduate Students**

We offer:

- ✓ **Competitive Compensation and Benefits**
- ✓ **Subsidized Housing Accommodations for qualified instructors**
- ✓ **Excellent Working Environment**
- ✓ **Professional & Culture-Sensitive Management**

ONLINE ENGLISH INSTRUCTORS (100)

Responsibilities

- Teaches English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Accomplishes daily reports, lesson plans, extension lessons and narrative progress reports
- Encourages students to high-level thinking (critical/ creative/decision-making)
- Participates in training & curriculum development

Requirements

- Creative, hardworking, results oriented and personable
- A college graduate, preferably Education, English, Literature, Communication Arts
- Well-read, fluent in English
- With an American Accent (an advantage)
- Willing to work full-time from 5am – 2pm OR 2pm – 11pm

Email your resumé to **recruitment.ildaeil@yahoo.com** (text only) or drop off your resumés at the 26th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
Tel. No. 8451026 / 8451040
http: //www.callstudy.co.kr http://www.i-bizacademy.com
http://www.themeschool.com

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(1) DRAFTSMAN

Qualifications:

a. Female, 20 years old and above
b. Graduate or College undergraduate of any Engineering course
c. Preferably an AutoCAD literate
d. Willing to work in Muntinlupa City

Interested applicants may contact **Mr. Dennis Ang** at Tel. No. 861-1807/1802 for schedule of interview.

URGENT!!!

EVEREST TRAVEL & TOURS, INC. (NON-IATA TRAVEL AGENCY)
RM. 605 JALANDONI BLDG. 1444 R. SALAS ST. ERMITA MANILA
TEL. # 4041837 FAX # 5242351

OFFICE MANAGER (CODE: OM)

- 28 - 40 YEARS OLD
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- WITH AT LEAST 5YRS. WORK EXPERIENCE IN A TRAVEL AGENCY
- WITH EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- CAN WORK UNDER PRESSURE
- HARD WORKING AND SELF MOTIVATED
- SALARY IS NEGOTIABLE

SALES & MARKETING ASSOCIATE (CODE: SMA)

- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- WITH AT LEAST 1YR. WORK EXPERIENCE IN A TRAVEL AGENCY
- CAN WORK UNDER PRESSURE
- SALARY IS NEGOTIABLE

ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE (CODE: AS)

- BS ACCOUNTANCY GRADUATE
- MALE / FEMALE 21 - 30 YRS OLD
- TRUSTWORTHY, DEPENDABLE, OPEN TO NEW IDEAS & COMPUTER LITERATE

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY EMAIL THEIR RESUMÉ WITH SUBJECT CODE TO:
everesttravel_tours@amadeusph.com / ATTENTION TO MS. JHING

ARMED FORCES & POLICE SAVINGS
& LOAN ASSOCIATION INC.
(Authorized By The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)

A multi-billion peso private financial institution and the country's number one savings and loan association urgently needs the following for immediate employment:

AUDIT EXAMINERS (2)

Certified Public Accountant, not more than 35 years old, at least three (3) years experience as Audit Examiner or similar capacity.

AIRCON TECHNICIAN

Mechanical or Electrical Engineering graduate with at least three (3) years experience in installation, maintenance, and repair of air-conditioning and refrigeration units, not more than 35 years old.

Highly attractive compensation and benefits package await successful applicants.

Please apply in proper business attire. Bring comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID picture, transcript of records, SSS E-1 form, residence certificate/cedula and latest NBI clearance to:

Human Resource Management Division
4/F AFPSLAI Building
EDSA cor. Col Bonny Serrano Rd., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

A Supermarket chain poised for growth is looking to immediately fill the following positions.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Male / Female, 21 – 30 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or a related field from a reputable school, with a background in Marketing and Sales
- Must have excellent communication, presentation and negotiation skills and willing to do field work
- Must be dynamic & aggressive in meeting targets (i.e. sales quotas etc)
- Must be able to work and speak to all types of people

MARKETING ASSISTANT (MA)

JOB DESCRIPTION
- Will help conceptualize & spearhead implementation of marketing activities that are geared towards brand awareness and incremental sales
- Will be in charge of coordinating all ads & promo requirements
- Will coordinate with suppliers & trade partners regarding co-marketing efforts

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (CSR)

JOB DESCRIPTION
- Will carry out client servicing of small or medium sized retailers
- Will execute store level promotions and marketing activities
- Will assist store customers with their shopping queries
- Will conduct client surveys through cold calls and area rounds

Interested applicants may submit their resume to Unit 1902 C West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Look for MS. STEPHANIE GOMEZ or MR. JONATHAN MERCADO
Tel. # 687-5380 / 634-3030 / 687-7744

Elite Garments International, Inc.
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Diligence is outstanding worker's key to success

By Ime Morales Aznar
Contributor

CAREER TALES

FOR JAIME OPIDER, DILIGENCE is the key to success. If you do not have genuine love for your work, and honest to goodness zeal and industry, where will you get the strength and determination to receive, segregate and count as much as a thousand water meters and related waste materials every single day? Not to mention repair those that can still be fixed, and store for later disposal, those that need to be sold.

Opider singlehandedly received, segregated, counted, stored and disposed of almost 40 tons of waste materials in a period of only four months. He repaired, calibrated and repainted more than 2,000 dismounted water meters in the same period. And because of his hard work his company, Manila Water Company, earned more than P3 million in additional revenues for a period of four months. Looking at the company's revenue history, aggregate revenue derived from the sale of waste materials was only P1.3 million, for a period of 20 months.

Tower awardee

For all his hard work, Opider received in December 2004 the Huwarang Manggagawa award from Manila Water Company. And in May 2005, the Rotary Club of Manila chose him to be one of the nine Tower (The Outstanding Workers of the Republic) awardees for 2005. He received a cash prize from Metrobank Foundation, Inc., a trophy, an honorary Bachelor of Technology degree from the Technological University of the Philippines (Opider finished high school but was not able to go to a university), and scholarships for his children from the Central Colleges of the Philippines and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Opider says, "Most important for me is the honor that I received."

The Tower Awards was founded in 1975 by the Rotary Club of Manila as an annual search for outstanding "blue collar" workers of the country. The awards are given in recognition of the contribution of skilled workers, the force that constitutes the "backbone of our country's industrial capacity", to our economic development.

Humble start

OPIDER JES AZNAR

Opider was born to a poor family in Surigao. Being the eldest, and because his parents were sick, he had to work for his family's needs. After finishing high school, his parents were not able to send him to college, and so he started doing hard manual work at a young age. In 1997, he worked briefly in Manila before going abroad to work as a pipe fitter. When he came back to the country, he got married and moved to Leyte, working for a fertilizer manufacturing company. He went back to Surigao again, bringing his wife and two children with him, where, unfortunately, Opider fell ill. When he got better, Opider decided to bring his family back to Manila. He became a construction worker, before he got a job at MWSS as laborer, then pipe fitter.

When the agency was privatized and became Manila Water Company, about 90 percent of the original employees, including Opider, was absorbed by the new company. He has worked for MWSS for seven years, and as meter services associate 2 for Manila Water for eight years. As such, his responsibility is to accept dismounted water meters and waste materials (fittings, tailpieces, gate bulbs, etc.), segregate them by brand and by size, and count all the materials. He also separates those water meters that should be disposed from those that can still be repaired. He brings those for repair to the meter repair area, doing the repairs himself. The water meters for disposal are brought to the storage area and collected until they can be weighed and sold.

Solution to problem

When the old system was still being used, dismounted water meters were not properly turned over to Manila Water Company. A lot of the waste materials were not being returned. There were also repairable meters that were not being fixed. The procedure was not properly documented and there was no adequate control over the acceptance,

DILIGENCE/P.9★★★

'I am locked in wrong career!'

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Josie O. Santamaria

I KNOW WHAT IS THE RIGHT career for me but my late father's parents won't let me. They supported my studies in college and continue to support my mother and three sisters who are still studying. My grandparents, especially my grandmother, who wields the power in our family and the families of my two aunts and an uncle, want me to work in the family business, because I'm the only grandson who carries their family name, and the eldest grandchild at that.

My late father had worked in the family business throughout his life until he had a fatal heart attack at age 38. I'm now 24 years old and had worked in the family business for almost two years to please my grandparents when I could have finished my MS in Physics.

My experience working in my grandparents' business had convinced me that business is not and can never be my career. My mother told me to look at a business career on the positive side so that I can begin to like it. She thinks that I am biased and do not see the good side of a business career because I'm so focused on a research and teaching career in physics.

I finished BS Physics with cum laude honors from a state university. I like physics very much and I want to devote my life to research and teaching. To build a career in research and teaching requires that I take further studies i.e., take an MS and a Ph.D in Physics, the latter in an institution abroad. I hope to apply for a scholarship to take a Ph.D in Physics abroad, but I would need my grandparents' financial assistance. I know that I have a chance to get a scholarship if I take my MS in Physics from my alma mater, which is a state university and later to get a foreign scholarship to get a Ph.D degree.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

I agree with my grandparents that I will not become rich in this career but it is what will make me happy and fulfilled.

What can I do? Please help me.

Mr. Distraught Scientist

I agree with you that you can find fulfillment of your

I AM/P.9★★★

'Terrorists' are everywhere!

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

EVERYDAY we are reminded that terrorists are everywhere. They are out to sow terror, and damage one's property, life, limb and sanity. Last Nov. 19, 2005 we planned to relax and watch the concert "A Tribute to George Canseco." We arrived at the PICC parking area early. The guards did their routine check of the vehicle and informed us that we can park at the distant end or at the right side of the area.

The parking was almost full. There were cordoned areas and some reserved spaces. Since one of my companions was a senior citizen with arthritis, I decided to drop them at the entrance door so they won't have a hard time. I then looked for a space to park. While looking for a place to park, I happened to ask two more PICC guards where I could park, and they again told me that I could park on one side or on the distant end. Luckily, or so I thought, one vehicle vacated a space beside the vehicle owned by a TV network. Hence, I was able to park.

On my way to the plenary hall, a man wearing a camouflage jacket introduced himself as an employee of the television network and told me to park on the other side of the street as he was reserving it for their director. *"Pasensya na, malakas ho kasi yon,"* he said. As far as I can remember, the three PICC guards told me that I could use only that side to park. If they told me that I couldn't park beside the TV network's vehicle then I would have parked somewhere else.

So I told him "I have already parked, I came in first, there's no reservation placed so it's my right to park in that area. Just let him (referring to the director) take the parking on the other side anyway *malakas naman pala siya.*" I smiled then proceeded to go in, fell in line, and looked for my seat. Inside the plenary hall, another TV network employee approached me and asked me to transfer the car somewhere else because it was for their director. Irritated and I felt stalked, I replied *"Bakit siya late, director pala siya.* You should have cordoned the area or placed a reserved marking so nobody can take that place. He can use the slot that you are asking me to occupy." Then he left.

While I was in the comfort room, a fat lady arrogantly approached my companions and introduced herself as an assistant producer of the TV network. In a civilized society, a person should come in front or near the person one wants to talk to. This uncouth lady did not bother to go near my companions but instead stood on the aisle and shouted at the top of her voice asking them to transfer the said vehicle.

My companions initially ignored her since they did not know what she was talking about. They thought the ill-mannered girl who was throwing her "weight" literally and figuratively, was talking to her "slaves" or to a gatecrasher who did not pay P1,030 per ticket to watch the show. However, she continued shouting at the top of her voice for all the guests to hear, so my companions could not take it anymore and answered back. Maybe realizing her mistakes, she left. Whether she apologized or not, my companions who were terrorized could not remember.

When I took my seat, my companions told me what happened and asked me to transfer the car because they might disturb us in the middle of the show. Since I knew that I did not violate any parking rules, I did not heed their request. A few minutes later, the TV network employee who first approached me came back and requested me to transfer the car or he would lose his job. Based on what transpired earlier, I realized that his superior was an "ego-tripper" who is capable of firing anyone without a reason. I pitied him. I agreed to transfer the car as long as there's an available space.

I went out, the network employee pointed to me a vacant space, he apologized and I accepted it, then I transferred the car. The show started more than an hour late. We enjoyed the tribute

TERRORISTS/P.9★★★

Unafraid to try

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

LINETTE, A FRIEND'S SISTER, IS A VERY COMPETENT worker. She's "just an AB graduate" but she's the type who is so capable she can handle any job you give her. And so she would be managing departments that other people with doctorates would. But she is also very picky about her bosses—she wouldn't endure those she deemed inferior to her, as she needs to be able to look up to her boss. And then, the inevitable came. She came to work under a vice president she thinks is so immature in ways both professional and personal. One particularly exasperating day she ventilated, "He's older and has lots of degrees but oftentimes I feel like putting him across my lap to give him a good spanking! He's terribly childish, can't even do his job well yet he wants me to do things his way! Bah, I have a track record to protect!" She asked me if she should resign; I asked her how her boss is as a person. "In fairness, he's a very good person *naman*, in fact, likeable at his best," she sheepishly admitted.

"So who's being childish?" I teased her and suggested, "Once in a while, forget about how brilliant you are and just trust in his goodness. If you must reason out, do so believing you're talking to an adult and a superior; your patience will pay off in the long run."

Even at the workplace, being a child has its uses. The children that Jesus would have coming to Him can be adults who are children at heart—they are unafraid to try the unknown for they trust in the love and goodness of the Father who created them. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com).

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

A child's face

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

THE GREAT CONCERN OF JESUS FOR CHILDREN AS SHOWN in today's Gospel reminds me of one of the main reasons why millions of Filipinos work abroad—the good of the children and the family. Satisfying the needs of the children and providing them with a brighter future are very important reasons, which push millions of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) to work hard and endure sacrifices in foreign and distant lands. The sense of parental duty or the instinct for preservation could also be some reasons for working hard to earn and buy materials and things for the children's needs. Work and the manner of working then, are also concrete ways that human and responsible parents show their love for the children and the young.

Jesus, however, loves dearly the children not out of duty and obligation but because "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"—the children. Jesus shows us that in the children one can understand what the kingdom of God is; that what one does to the children, who are "least" is done to Him and that unless one does not become "like little children" he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus' loving care for the children illustrates that one's work for the sake of the children has a direct bearing on our relationship with God.

Every time the worker sees a child, he can look beyond the hard work and toil he has to undergo, the boredom of the daily tasks he has to bear, or the pains and difficulties he has to suffer. The face of a child seen with faith in Jesus' words could mirror for the worker the joys and happiness of God's love and care. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Diligence is outstanding worker's key to success

From page 8★★★

repairs, disposal and storage of the water meters and its waste materials. This practice led to inaccurate and low revenue for the company. "For example," Opider explains, "tampered meters don't register the right values, and that translates to lost income for the company."

Opider, together with his superiors, drafted and implemented a system that would track the number of meters and materials that are released, and those that are returned. The new system also addressed the other problem areas in the procedure. "It's very tedious," says Opider, "I run around, I do the paper work first, I really have to be very meticulous with details and record keeping." But since this is the battle plan, he does his job to the best of his abilities, without complain. "The company is very happy with the outcome," he smiles.

Recently, Opider registered a total of 30 tons of waste materials for sale—that's additional income for the company. He specifically asks the contractors to return old water meters and materials, because now he knows how much is still out there with them. With the help of his records and the new system in place, he can look for the missing items and demand for their return. That's another area where Manila Water Company's revenue improved.

"I'm also able to repair inaccurate or tampered meters, we don't have to issue new ones and the company doesn't have to lose money because of inaccurate readings," he says. From the time he started to implement this new system in October, until February 2005, Manila Water made more than P3 mllion in revenue.

Work values

Opider believes that if the company succeeds, employees like him will benefit, too. "I want to help the company, that's my motivation," he reveals. "I know that if the company closes down, I won't have work and my family will have nothing to eat." Despite the difficulties that his job entails, he does his best to do his job well. He is the lone person at Manila Water tasked to receive all water meters from all dismounted water meters from all over Metro Manila. "It can total to around 1,000 meters a day, or 500 on slow days," he says.

"Whatever work is given to me, as long as I can do it, I will do it," Opider affirms. He admits that he's not one to take it easy. "I have a big responsibility, I can't take it easy." For Opider, success will come if a person is industrious, if he sets his plans into motion and not simply let them remain as plans. "You can't just think about what you're going to do, you really have to do it, that's success for me."

He is also realistic and level-headed. "I don't have a degree so I don't think about lofty things anymore, I just do my work and I love my work," Opider says. Industry, coupled with faith and prayers, are for Opider the secrets to success. "Even if you work hard, but if you don't know how to call on God, nothing will happen to you."

'Terrorists' are everywhere!

From page 8★★★

and forgot the earlier incident with the "terrorist" lady. After almost two hours of destressing, we proceeded to the car and saw deep scratches on the hood and driver's door. We were supposed to be in a "safe" parking area manned by more than five PICC guards, but still the car was damaged.

From this experience, I realized that terrorists could be anywhere. They don't need to carry a gun, or a bomb to wield their terroristic activities. All they need is arrogance, power and a "damaging" mind. My only wish is that what we experienced won't happen again.

Terrorized Lady

What happened to you is most unfortunate. Based on your story, there was display of arrogance and power on the part of the people of the TV network and this is most deplorable. While it may appear logical that the people who got irritated with you may have been those who damaged your car, I would not be quick to jump to that conclusion. I remember years ago attending a concert at a renowned stadium. At the end of the show, I was dismayed at scratches on the side of my van. Vandals were obviously at work while I was enjoying the show.

What can you do to prevent your car from getting scratched? Here are some practical advice. One, bring a modest car if you have a choice, a car that will not call attention because of its bright color or of its being the latest model. Two, make sure you park in a well-lit area, since vandals typically would prefer to do their evil deeds in dark spots. Third, an advice from my husband, who constantly amazes me with his practical wisdom, if you can choose a space, place your car in between two expensive cars. The costly cars will pull attention away from your car.

I suggest you let the insurance company take care of the scratches. As for people in power strutting like peacocks, we really would need to work towards growing our culture from one that tolerates public display of power and money to one that is more caring and concerned with others and our quality of life. Let us also strive to lower the power distance between the powerful and regular citizens like us.

Talking of concerts, my friends at Lightning Rod Corporation are sponsoring a pre-Valentine concert Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the AFP Aguinaldo Theater, featuring cultural icon, Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and Friends with The Men in Gold as front act. Proceeds will go to help the Bukas Palad Social Centers of the Focolare Movement. Do get your tickets at Ticket World or at major National Bookstores or Robinson Department Store outlets. My friends are sure your cars will be secure.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. E-mail feedback to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel. number 892-2895.)*

'I am locked in wrong career!'

From page 8★★★

talents and potentials, and be happy if you are in the right career. You are sure of what you want but you can not express your career choice without alienating your grandparents who want you to be in their business, possibly as their successor. You are sure of your career inclination; a career in physics, doing research and teaching, is what you want to do.

Your problem is how to give a firm and definite "no" to your grandparents without having to feel guilty and alienating them since your family is dependent on them for support and you would also depend on them for further studies in your chosen career.

So how do you go about giving your assertive "no" that will result in a win-win situation? I suggest that you make an appointment to talk to your mother and then to your grandparents. But before you do, prepare what you will say. Perhaps you can outline what you will say according to the suggested format:

1. I know you want me to help you in the business, perhaps to take major responsibilities. I really tried my best to like the tasks given to me these past two years.

2. However, I am not happy doing what I have been doing these past two years. I have inherited a different set of genes from you, perhaps your recessive genes. No matter how I tried to see the positive side of a business career, I am not cut out for it. My heart is not in it. If my heart is not in it, I cannot be successful in it. I know you want me to be successful and happy. I can be successful and happy if I'm in the right career. If I'm not successful, I will feel inferior and it will affect my life, my self-esteem, my present and my future.

3. My career interest is in physics. I like it very much. I am very happy when (here, cite the activities in physics that enthuse you.). I want to spend my life doing research on (here cite again your field of interest in physics.) and teaching students about my findings and the knowledge I acquire from it.

4. Please give me a chance to pursue my career interest. I need your help to pursue an MS in Physics this coming June. After taking MS, or perhaps, while taking it, I will apply for a doctorate in physics in a good university in the US and apply for scholarship with board and lodging. I cannot accomplish these without your blessings and your active support.

5. Perhaps, one of my sisters and some of my cousins will have a business inclination and follow in your footsteps. Successful businesses are run by many women, just like you, Grandma.

6. Please help me fulfill my vision of being a great physicist, doing research in (put specialization here) and publishing a book on my research.

I hope, Mr. Distraught Scientist,that your script, prepared in advance, and delivered with conviction but with respect and humility, will get the nod and support of your elders. God bless you.

(Ms Santamaria has a Ph.D in psychology and is a practicing psychologist, counselor, management consultant, executive coach and mentor. Her company, Career Systems, Inc., which she and her husband Jorge manage with daughter Desiree S. Urbi, specializes in career development, leadership and management development programs, and outplacement counseling services, as well as provide consulting services in human resources development and organization development. E-mail feedback to carsys@careersystems.com.ph.*)*

A progressive and dynamic conglomerate is currently in search of:

Finance & Administrative Officer
(For Boracay Office)

- College graduate, Major in Accounting
- With at least 2 years experience
- Proficient in computer related applications
- Male or Female, not more than 40 years old

(2) Accountants
(For Pasay City Office)

- College graduate, Major in Accounting
- CPA an advantage
- With at least two years experience
- Dynamic and results oriented
- Proficient in computer related applications
- Male or Female, not more than 30 years of age

Successful candidates can look forward to a challenging career and a competitive remuneration package.

Qualified applicants are requested to send resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records by mail, or e-mail to:

MR. ERICO LOPEZ
HR & Admin Services Department
MBC Bldg., Sotto St.,
CCP Complex, Pasay City
E-mail: ericorlopez@mbcradio.net

A retailing company is urgently in need of the following:

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

- Male/Female
- 21-25 years old
- Bachelor of Science Degree, preferably with a major in Business and other related 4 year course
- Experience in retail shop operations
- With excellent interpersonal and entrepreneurial skills
- Independent and articulate
- Possible areas of assignment:
  - CAR/Ilocos Region (Baguio and Pangasinan)
  - Central Luzon (Pampanga)
  - Southern Tagalog (Molino, Bacoor and Sta. Rosa)
  - NCR (Parañaque, Makati, Quezon City, Caloocan, Pasig, Cainta and Manila)

Qualified appicants are requested to mail their resumé with a most recent ID photo to the address below:

CODE: PPMMC-MT
c/o Sugarland Corporation Compound
Pines corner Reliance Streets, Brgy. Highway Hills,
Mandaluyong City 1550

IMMIGRATE TO CANADA
FREE SEMINARS-Every Saturdays @10am starting January 21; INVESTORS PROGRAM ONLY-Every Wednesdays @3pm starting February 01
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PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & SPOUSES, SKILLED WORKERS & PROVINCIAL NOMINEES (less1yr process),
Standard Immigration Services Inc. - Suite 704, 7th flr. Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig; Tel (632)631-[illegible] Telefax: (632)[illegible]
Cel: [illegible] Email: standardphilippines@yahoo.com
www.standardimmigration.com

DELTEK Deltek Systems Philippines, Ltd.
Web address: http://www.deltek.com

A US based, leading provider of innovative software products has immediate openings for talented, dedicated software professionals.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS Job code: CPDV

☐ Work with software development and quality assurance teams in the Philippines and the U S to deliver software products of outstanding quality

Requirements

☐ Four-year degree in Computer Science, IT, or related field.
☐ 2+ years working as a professional software developer using client-server technology such as Gupta SQLWindows, Centura/Gupta Team Developer, PowerBuilder, Oracle Developer, Delphi, Visual Basic, C/C++, or similar languages and tools.
☐ Excellent knowledge and skills with relational database management (RDBMS) systems and SQL. Experience with PL/SQL and Transact-SQL. Good understanding of data modeling and Entity-Relationship Diagrams (ERD).
☐ Education or experience in project accounting, financial accounting, payroll, inventory, or purchasing.
☐ Proven track record of learning new products and technologies
☐ Previous involvement in all phases of the software development lifecycle.
☐ Strong analytical & problem-solving skills and ability to troubleshoot problems in a timely manner.
☐ Excellent proficiency in written and spoken English.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO:

DELTEK SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, LTD.
26F Floor, Tower 2
The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
Phone 632-886-5050
Email applicant@deltek.com

IMPORTANT: PLEASE SPECIFY JOB CODE AS SUBJECT IN YOUR E-MAIL

Manly PLASTICS, INC.

An ISO 9001:2000 QMS certified manufacturing company operating for more than 40 years.

URGENTLY NEED INDIVIDUALS TO FILL-UP THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SALES EXECUTIVES (Code: SE)
Male/Female, 25 to 35 years old. Graduates of Business or Engineering course. With at least 1 year solid sales experience and preferably with driving skills.

OFFICE STAFF/TELEMARKETER (Code: TM)
Male/Female, 22 to 35 years old. Graduate of any 4-year College Course. Computer literate and with at least 6 months related work experience.

HEALTH & BENEFITS STAFF (Code: HB)
Male/Female, 22 to 35 years old. Graduate of Nursing, or any 4-year Practical Medical related course (i.e. Physical Therapy, Medical Technology, etc). With at least 6 months related experience in an industrial setting. Willing to perform benefits administration functions and be assigned in any area within Metro Manila.

CADET ENGINEERS (Code: CE)
For Laguna, Sucat, or Malabon assignment Male, 21 to 28 years old. Graduates of Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, or Industrial Design. For Malabon assignment, experience in AutoCAD is an advantage.

Interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resume w/ 1x1 picture & transcript of records to
THE HRM DIVISION
CBT CONDOMINIUM, #60 WEST AVENUE, Q.C.
TEL NO 3739797 LOC 151
E-MAIL hrd@manlyplastics.com
WEBSITE www manlyplastics com ph

jay c. designs
is in need of:

CREATIVE ARTIST

QUALIFICATIONS:
Male/Female; 21 years above; College Graduate; Proficient with Coreldraw 12 and Photoshop 7

RESPONSIBILITES:
Graphic design development to produce new product concepts; Conceptualize packaging designs, store displays, racks and other point-of-purchase materials; Maintain and organize library and archive of finished creative materials; and Make initial proofreading and quality check before submission to the art director

Please submit resume with recent picture to:
JAY C. DESIGNS, INC.
142 Road 3, Pagasa, Q.C. Tel. # 927-1776
SM Megamall Tel. 635-6298 · SM City N. EDSA Tel. 927-4150
or e-mail to jaycdesigns@pacific.net.ph

TDC TOSTEM Philippines
A subsidiary of TOSTEM Corporation, Japan
www.tostem.co.jp

DESIGNER/DETAILER
5 yrs experience in Aluminum Curtainwall Design (Stick & Unit systems). Familiar w/ Japanese & British standards. Structural Design background is an advantage. Proficient in AutoCAD.

STRUCTURAL STEEL DETAILER
5 yrs experience structural steel detailing, application of US standards, AISC 2002 and OSHA. Proficient in AutoCAD

Email your resume to tosdc@pldtdsl.net

We are looking for:
MALE OR FEMALE
COLLEGE GRADUATE, (Marketing graduate preferred) not more than 25 years old, Good Moral Character, Computer Literate and proficient in oral and written English.
Please send letter of application with bio-data, transcript of records to:
THE MANAGER
BESTMATCH ENTERPRISES,
26 ORANGE ST., SSS VILLAGE,
MARIKINA CITY
E-mail: cblayco@bestmatch.com.ph

EXECUTIVE MARKETING SERVICE
FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT
TELEMARKETERS
MARKETING EXECUTIVES
☐ 18 years old and above with or without experience
☐ Training will be provided with basic pay plus commission
Interested parties may apply at:
Unit 609 Don Tim Bldg. 5438 South Super Hi-way,
(Near AMA Makati) Bangkal, Makati City
757-4538

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
QUALIFICATIONS:
☐ College graduate preferably major in Mass Communication, Journalism
☐ Knowledge in Pagemaker, Photoshop, or any related pagination or editing software
☐ Proofreading Skills, Encoding Skills, Scanning Skills, Layouting Skills

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST
QUALIFICATIONS:
☐ College graduate preferably with background in Computer
☐ With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
☐ Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
☐ Understanding in color management systems
☐ Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

DESK EDITORS
QUALIFICATIONS:
☐ College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
☐ Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
☐ With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

AN AGGRESSIVE, START-UP, BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY COMPANY, BASED IN ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY, SERVING INTERNATIONAL CLIENTS, IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

1. SECURITY SPECIALISTS
- Male or female, 25 to 35 years of age
- College degree preferred
- With at least 3 years work experience
- With experience in case investigation
- Proficient in basic computer use.
- Innovative, resourceful, highly motivated, willing to work long hours
- Good communications and interpersonal skill
- Previous police or military experience an advantage

2. ANALYSTS
- Male or female, 25 to 35 years of age
- College degree holder
- With at least 3 years work experience
- Keen to details critical and highly logical thinker
- Proficient in MSOffice Applications
- Computer programming skills an advantage
- Must have excellent English oral and written communications skills.

3. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- Female 21 to 30 years of age
- Pleasing personality
- College degree holder
- Proficient in MSOffice Applications
- Knowledgeable in basic bookkeeping
- Good communications and interpersonal skill
- Organized, systematic and can work with minimum supervision

We offer very competitive compensation packages, signing bonus, specialized training and travel opportunities.

Send your comprehensive resume with picture to

career@r3consultancy.com.

All information will be treated strictly confidential.

Asian Appraisal
Company, Inc.

International professional business and property consultants

URGENTLY NEEDS

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Business or Industrial Engineering graduate, male or female, single, outgoing, articulate, aggressive, personable & preferably with account management or marketing background

ALSO INVITES

LICENSED CIVIL/MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
Male, of good scholastic standing, new graduate or with experience in real estate appraisal, surveying & cost estimates, industrial plant operation, electrical works valuation and computer literate

DRAFTSMAN/AUTO-CAD OPERATOR
To perform drafting tasks which requires the application of most of the standardized drawing techniques (Auto-Cad), male or female, preferably engineering or architecture graduate

TELEPHONE OPERATOR/RECEPTIONIST
Graduate of Bachelor of Arts in English, or any related field, knowledge of telephone switchboard operation an advantage, not more than 28 years of age, female, single, with pleasing personality, responsible and hardworking

Submit transcript of records & latest resumé & photo to:
Asian Appraisal Company, Inc
21st Floor 6788 Ayala Ave., Oledan Square, Makati City 1226

LORENZANA FOOD CORPORATION, the leading condiment manufacturer (Lorins Patis, Filtaste Sukang Sasa, and Filtaste Soy Sauce) is inviting highly competitive and customer-oriented individuals to fill in its job opening:

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Graduate of any Engineering/management degree or its equivalent with strong background / hands-on in operations from food manufacturing company; must have at least 3-5 years experience in production planning, scheduling, logistics, warehousing and shipping; knowledgeable in GMP, SSOP, HACCP; highly analytical, organized and keen to details; excellent in written and verbal communication skills. Experience in the condiments industry is a plus.

SALES MANAGER

Business course graduate or its equivalent; must have at least 5 years experience in the condiments market; able to develop and implement strategic business plans and programs; excellent communication, presentation and relationship-building skills; good team player.

QA/R&D Assistant

Female; Food Technology graduate or health related course; at least 3-5 years experience in the food manufacturing industry; preferably with knowledge in GMP, SSOP, HACCP; familiar with regulatory requirements.

PROMO MERCHANDISERS

Male / Female; 20-26 years old; at least 5'2" in height (Female) and 5'6" (Male); HS graduate or College level / graduate; preferably with 5 months experience as merchandiser; with pleasing personality. Successful applicants will be assigned in leading supermarkets in Metro Manila, Cavite, and Laguna areas.

QA/R&D and Merchandisers are advised to apply personally and bring resumé, 2x2 picture, NBI clearance, SSS number, TOR or HS diploma to the address below: Managerial positions are advised to send in their resumé, 2x2 picture via e-mail: linc@tri-isys.com or to the address below:

The Human Resources Department
Lorenzana Food Corporation
551 M. Naval St., Navotas, Metro Manila

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the recognized leader in the newspaper industry with its **balanced news and fearless views** is committed to helping our trade partners achieve its business goals and serving the community via generation of employment.

We are in need of

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISORS

to work for our Distributor Partner in the areas of Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

JOB DESCRIPTION:
✓ **Will handle a sub-distributor partner to grow the business.**

QUALIFICATIONS:
☞ College graduates from the localities;
☞ Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking;
☞ Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
☞ Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.

☐ Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus..

Send your ***Resume*** to **GQY Distribution Group Inc.** at
GQY Distributors Inc., Dolores Homesite Extension, Dolores,
San Fernando Pampanga

or call/fax 045-9614048 and look for **Mr. Mar Manabat or Mr. Jess Yap.**
You can email it to
jessy@mail.irnet.net.ph or qdydistribution.com.ph

FASTPAK GLOBAL EXPRESS CORP.
is in need of the ff.:

1) Cargo Operations Supervisor
- 1 vacancy; Female, 25-30 years old
- Graduate of at least 4-year Business or Logistics course
- familiar w/ Philippine Geography esp. Visayas & Mindanao; preferably w/ experience in Logistics

2) Sales Executive
- 2 vacancies: Male or Female, 20-25 years old
- Graduate of any Business-related course, preferably from a reputable school
- We are also looking for (1) Chinese-speaking Sales Executive (Fookien, Mandarin, Cantonese, etc.)

3) Financial Analyst
- 1 vacancy; Female, 21-25 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy (or Certified Public Accountant [CPA] also encouraged to apply)

General Qualifications:
◆ computer literate; above average communication skills (oral & written); excellent interpersonal skills; keen on details; superior problem-solving & negotiation skills; committed to work; proactive; analytical
● *Fresh graduates are welcome to apply*

For inquiries, pls. call 829-3278 loc. 825 (HR Dept.) or e-mail klvizcarra@fastgroup.biz
Office Address: Oyster Industrial Complex, Bldg.1, cor. Kabihasnan rd. & NAIA Ave., Sucat, P'que

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PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PMAP)
A premier organization in human resource management is in need of

PMAP Project Coordinator

Graduate of any business course
With experience in event / project management
Above average written and oral communication skills
Can relate with people at all levels
Result oriented and can work with minimal supervision

Position offer career growth opportunities and competitive starting salary. Please submit your resume, transcript of records, photo and covering letter to:

The Executive Director
email: pmap@pmap.org.ph
PMAP
670 Lee St. Addition Hills
Mandaluyong City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

PROJECT ENGINEERS
- Male or Female
- Not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Civil Engineering or Architecture Course
- Preferably LICENSED
- Experience in
  - Mall Project
  - Manpower Supervision
  - Estimate & Drafting Skills
  - Willing to be assigned in various construction projects
  - With good quality leadership & attitude

PURCHASER
- Skilled
- With good quality leadership, attitude & honest
- 23-40 years old
- At least 3 years experience

SECRETARY
- Skilled
- With good quality leadership & attitude
- Computer literate

Interested applicant may call
912-72-01
Look for Ms. Aida or Ms. Cherry

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3 Sun Traders Corp. 152 Pasig Blvd., Pasig City
needs PACKAGING SALESMEN

To promote imported flexible packaging materials
- Single, Male or Female, 22-30 yrs. old preferred
- Will accept fresh graduate of any engineering (preferred) or marketing course
- Proficiency in English both written and oral; computer literate
- Selling experience in packaging/converting industry helpful
- With driver's license
- Good basic salary + commission

Call Tel. Nos. 671-2084/2103

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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

Child & Youth Participation Consultancy

To build capacity of UNICEF partner Local Government Units (LGU) in facilitating authentic child and youth participation activities as part of annual programmes of cooperation. This requires full time consultancy work in the UNICEF Manila office for an initial 11-month period with the main focus on developing higher quality LGU work plans/activities to reach desired results.

Essential qualifications:
- Advanced university degree or equivalent background in Communication, Journalism, International Relations, Communication Research, or other relevant discipline
- Familiar with human rights-based approach to programming
- Computer literate in standard office applications
- Excellent knowledge of English and Filipino, both oral and written

Please send cover letter and curriculum vitae before Jan. 20, 2006 to:
The HR UNIT through e-mail: gpfernandez@unicef.org
We will only reply to shortlisted candidates.

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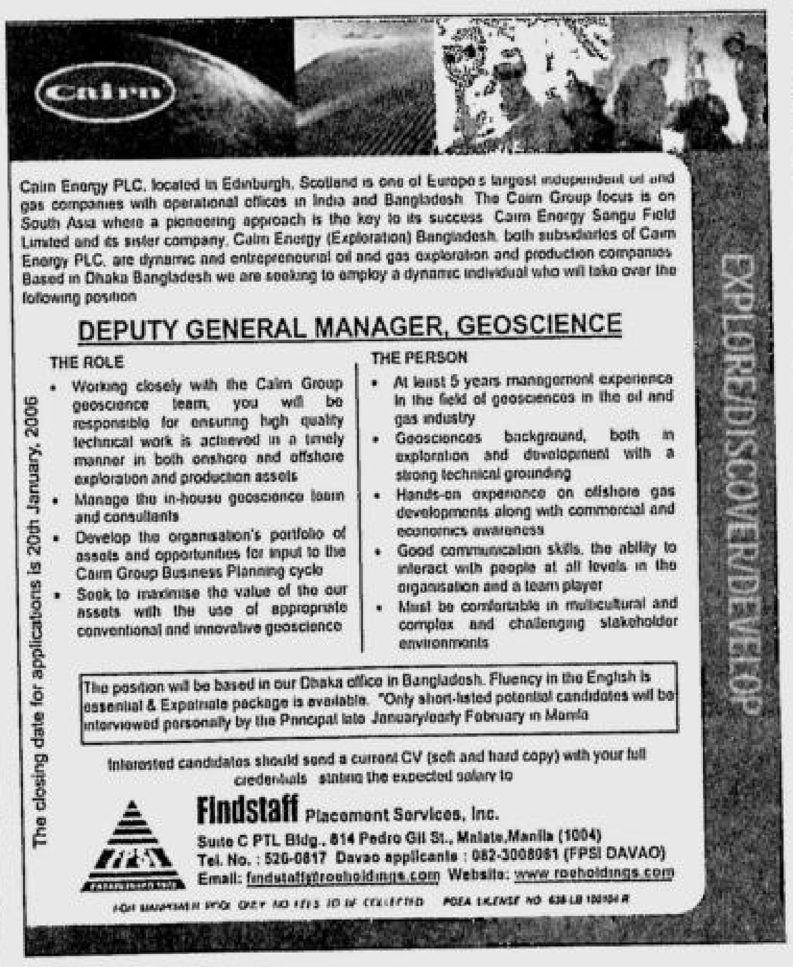
visit us at:
www.jobmarketonline.com



Cairn Energy PLC, located in Edinburgh, Scotland is one of Europe's largest independent oil and gas companies with operational offices in India and Bangladesh. The Cairn Group focus is on South Asia where a pioneering approach is the key to its success. Cairn Energy Sangu Field Limited and its sister company, Cairn Energy (Exploration) Bangladesh, both subsidiaries of Cairn Energy PLC, are dynamic and entrepreneurial oil and gas exploration and production companies. Based in Dhaka Bangladesh we are seeking to employ a dynamic individual who will take over the following position

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER, GEOSCIENCE

THE ROLE
- Working closely with the Cairn Group geoscience team, you will be responsible for ensuring high quality technical work is achieved in a timely manner in both onshore and offshore exploration and production assets
- Manage the in-house geoscience team and consultants
- Develop the organisation's portfolio of assets and opportunities for input to the Cairn Group Business Planning cycle
- Seek to maximise the value of the our assets with the use of appropriate conventional and innovative geoscience

THE PERSON
- At least 5 years management experience in the field of geosciences in the oil and gas industry
- Geosciences background, both in exploration and development with a strong technical grounding
- Hands-on experience on offshore gas developments along with commercial and economics awareness
- Good communication skills, the ability to interact with people at all levels in the organisation and a team player
- Must be comfortable in multicultural and complex and challenging stakeholder environments

The position will be based in our Dhaka office in Bangladesh. Fluency in the English is essential & Expatriate package is available. "Only short-listed potential candidates will be interviewed personally by the Principal late January/early February in Manila

Interested candidates should send a current CV (soft and hard copy) with your full credentials stating the expected salary to

Findstaff Placement Services, Inc.
Suite C PTL Bldg., 814 Pedro Gil St., Malate, Manila (1004)
Tel. No.: 526-0817 Davao applicants : 082-3008081 (FPSI DAVAO)
Email: findstaff@roeholdings.com Website: www.roeholdings.com

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The closing date for applications is 20th January, 2006

The United Nations Information Centre for the Philippines (UNIC)
is in need of a

NATIONAL INFORMATION OFFICER

Education and Skills:
Master's Degree holder and University Degree in Journalism, Mass Communications or other related field. Proficiency in the use of computer software in accordance with designated responsibilities.

Competencies:
Professionalism - Must manifest time integrity and proper demeanor. Possess tact and ability to exercise discretion, diplomacy, sound judgment. Must possess a high level of commitment and responsibility towards completing the workplan in a timely and professional manner. Ability to work under minimum supervision and must have the ability to manage and guide a small workforce. *Planning and Organizing* - Effective organizational skills. Ability to allocate and prioritize work and appropriate amount of time for urgent tasks maximizing limited resources. Excellent liaison skills. Excellent organizational and communication skills. Demonstrated presentation skills. Ability to address and queries concerning the UN and to determine relevant background materials which may be required. *Teamwork* - Good interpersonal skills. Ability to work in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity and must have the ability to work as a pro-active member of a team.

Experience:
At least 10 years relevant professional experience in media-related work. Good contacts in Philippine media/civil society are an asset. Experience with an international organization an advantage.

Language:
Fluency in written and oral English is required.

Competitive salaries and benefits. Interested candidates may send their application letter with resumé and a photo to:

Administrative Assistant
United Nations Information Centre
30th Floor, RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Rooms 3017/3018
6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Fax: 889-7177 or 901-0200
Email: infocentre@unicmanila.org
Marked: Confidential – National Information Officer
Closing date of application is at 4:00pm, Tuesday, 31 January 2006

An upscale retail store specializing in home & fashion accessories is in need of

STORE FRONTLINERS

with the following qualifications:
- Education: college graduate
- Experience: 2 years experience in retail sales
- Communication skills: fluent in English & Tagalog
- Technical know-how: Microsoft Office, preferably familiar with point-of-sale systems
- Others: at least 5'2" with pleasing personality

Please fax resumé to Patty at 890-5769

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[1] QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

Qualifications:
a. 21 years old and above
b. Graduate of BS Chemistry or Chemical Engineering course from a reputable college or university
c. At least 1 year laboratory job experience from a uPVC pipe manufacturing plant
d. Must be familiar with ISO system/procedures
e. Computer literate

Interested applicants may contact **Mr. Olan Brinces** at Tel. No. 899-0432/0208 local 104 for schedule of interview.

ADMIN ASST. FOR A COMMERCIAL COMPLEX

- College Graduate - BSBA
- 24-25 years old
- At least a minimum of 1 year experience in a commercial complex operation
- Preferably female and willing to work in Antipolo

Apply personally with bio-data and clearances and photo to:

Rafeli Realty and Development Corporation
Rm. 715 Royal Plaza Twin Tower
#648 Remedios, Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 301-7785/301-7786/301-7787

Calling all young dynamic, aggressive, and confident individuals with pleasing personality! Background in SALES is preferred.

Join our Elite Marketing Team!

Send your Resumé with 2x2 picture to radiance.inc@gmail.com
2/F Victoria I Bldg., 1670 Quezon Ave., cor. EDSA, QC,
Tel. Nos. 425-1508 to 10
Walk-ins are welcome M-F 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

A leading company in the industrial laundry is in need of a highly aggressive individual:

STRATEGIC BUSINESS OFFICER

Identify business opportunities for expansion; Develop and implement cost effective sales strategy; Manage and expand the existing franchising operation; Develop the annual sales budget and marketing plan; and manage a staff of 2-3 people.

Must be start-up oriented, hands-on & willing to executive programs independently. Graduate of any business course, preferably in marketing. MBA degree an advantage, Pref. with 2-3 yrs. experience in sales and/or franchising.

Competitive package awaits the successful candidates. Submit resumé w/ photo & copy of transcript of records to: # 265-E Tomas Morato, Q.C. or fax to 930-5858 or email to jvtejano@gmail.com or bsgon@lycos.com

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JOB Market
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

HERTFORD CONSULTING, an International Management Consultant Group with major projects in the Philippines and the U.A.E., is now inviting experienced and qualified professional to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- Knowledge of financial and management accounting, and international business
- Familiarity with investment and financial analysis methods, and their application
- Computer literate and proven interpersonal skills
- Male or Female, 30 to 35 years old

Market Research Executive

- Must be a graduate in Marketing or Mass Communication
- Familiarity in detail of property and construction industry with previous experience in similar role
- Information data base and network essential
- Male or Female 30 to 40 years old

New Business Manager

- Must be a graduate in Marketing or Mass Communication
- Comprehensive knowledge of property and construction industry with established network
- Capability to present company and its services to potential clients including preparing proposal
- Knowledge of business promotions and public relations
- Male or Female 30 to 45 years old

Building Services Manager

- Must be a Mechanical/Electrical Engineering Graduate
- Proven experience in managing consultants and specialist contractors
- Effective in multi-cultural environment
- Experienced in all aspects of engineering services
- Knowledge of costs and value engineering
- Male 30 to 45 years old

Quantity Surveyor

- Must possess a Bachelor's degree in Engineering
- At least 5 years of work experience as Quantity Surveyor or equivalent with experience in cost estimating and quantity take-off; contract preparations, administration & implementation
- Able to work independently
- Male or Female

Legal Officer

- Male, between 35 -40 years old
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Law or equivalent.
- At least 10 year(s) of working experience in corporate law acquired from a multinational setting; with preferential knowledge of construction contracts

Secretary

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Secretarial or equivalent.
- Female, between 25-30 years old
- At least 3 year(s) of work experience in a related field and can work with minimum supervision
- Knowledge in computer office software applications
- Able to type at least 30 to 35 wpm
- Good interpersonal relation

We seek candidates who possess initiative, leadership and good communication skills. Employment packages are commensurate with experience and ability offered.

Please send bio-data with application letter, references, current photograph (passport size) and contact telephone numbers to:

HRD Manager
701-702, 7th Floor, 139 Corporate Center
Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Or Fax to : 817-0612

Follow the Leader

PROJECT LEADERSHIP (ENGINEERING)

Our client is a leading global player in the field of heavy industries. They have interests throughout the world but with special focus in Southeast Asia. Our client is actively pursuing business opportunities in the Philippines, and is currently in search of a seasoned professional who can assume a Project Leadership role.

The successful candidate will be at the forefront of direction and proper execution of plans and programs; dealing with contractors and suppliers; optimizing costs; ensuring safety and security in all projects; and, working closely with the government and other concerned parties.

This is a **high-level position** which is best filled by somebody who has had General Management experience but still very much steeped in **Project Management**, preferably earned from the **Engineering/Construction, Heavy Industries**, and even **Resource-based Industries**. We are looking for a **Leader**, equipped with succinct commercial sense and astute decision-making skills.

Our client is prepared to offer a very attractive package of compensation and benefits to the right candidate. Interested candidates are invited to forward their resumes to regie.gines@johnclements.com or direct calls to 845-2048. We will only entertain candidates until January 27, 2006.

John Clements Consultants, Inc.
EXECUTIVE SEARCH & SELECTION DIVISION
903 / 904 Antel 2000, 121 Valero Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Email: essd@johnclements.com
Tel. No. 845-2002 to 04 • Fax No. 845-2106
Visit our Website at www.johnclements.com

NOLGROUP

APL

An international corporation and a leader in the global ocean transportation industry seeks Top-Notch Candidates for:

Sales Representative

- College Graduate in any field of Business or Engineering from reputable schools preferably fresh graduate
- With exceptional oral and written skills
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- Proficient in MS Office
- Must know how to drive

Finance Assistant

☐ BSC Accounting graduate preferably CPA
☐ With strong Accounting background
☐ Computer literate
☐ Preferably with external and internal audit experience
☐ Extensive analytical exposure

We offer a good compensation package and the opportunity to work, to be trained, and to be part of an international company with over 150 years of experience in more than 80 countries around the world.

Send your CV together with a colored 2 x 2 photo of yourself and a copy of your transcript of records to
"The HR Manager" APL CO. PTE LTD, HR Department
P.O. Box 788 CPO 1099 Manila –or –
Velco Centre, cor. Chicago & 13th Sts., Port Area, Manila

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Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
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Tel. No. 8164743, 7503287
Email: sga_main@philamsga.com
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**must be residing in Cebu*

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Pearl S. Buck Foundation-Phils., Inc.
#28-A Eugenio Lopez St., South Triangle, Q.C.
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Supervisory Level
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Operations Supervisor

Management Level
Operations Manager

Requirements

Staff Level	Supervisory Level	Management Level
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To Apply

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Mail or Deliver in Person to:
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- Salary negotiable

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- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Preferably with at least 2 years related work experience
- Computer literate
- With Marketing/Sales background

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- Computer literate
- College graduate

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Female, not over 30 years old
- College graduate
- Preferably with travel related work experience
- With good communications and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

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Regent Bldg . 1415 Gen. Luna Street
Ermita, Manila
Attn: The Personnel Officer
or
e-mail to regent@pldtdsl.net

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NATIONAL COORDINATOR

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E-mail mmanalo@wwf.org.ph for more details of job description and application process. Submit resume by January 17, 2006 to: The HR unit c/o Manna Manalo, WWF Philippines, 4th Floor, JBD Plaza, # 65 Mindanao Avenue, Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City. Tel. 9207923 / 7931 / 7926.

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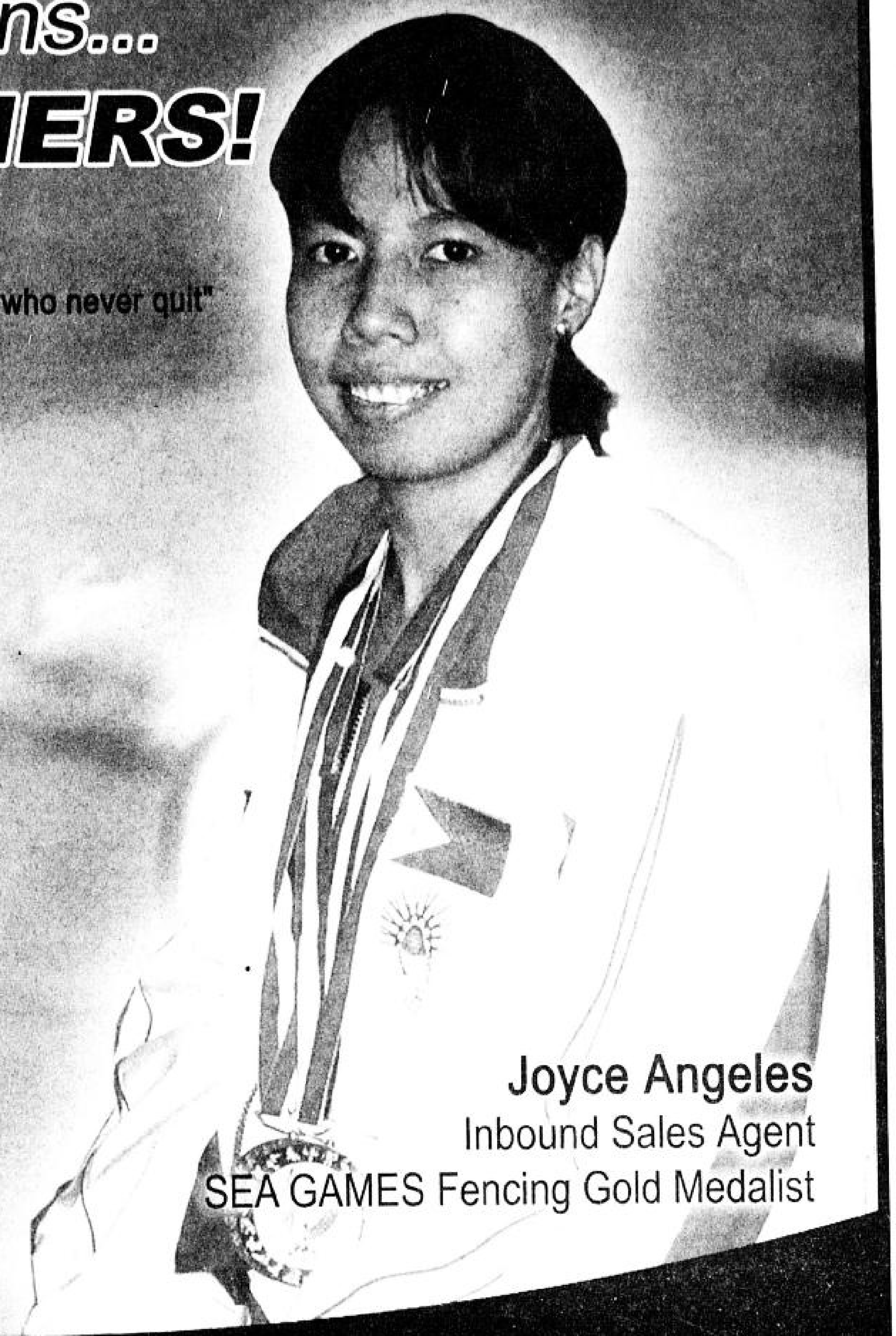

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

JANUARY 15, 2006

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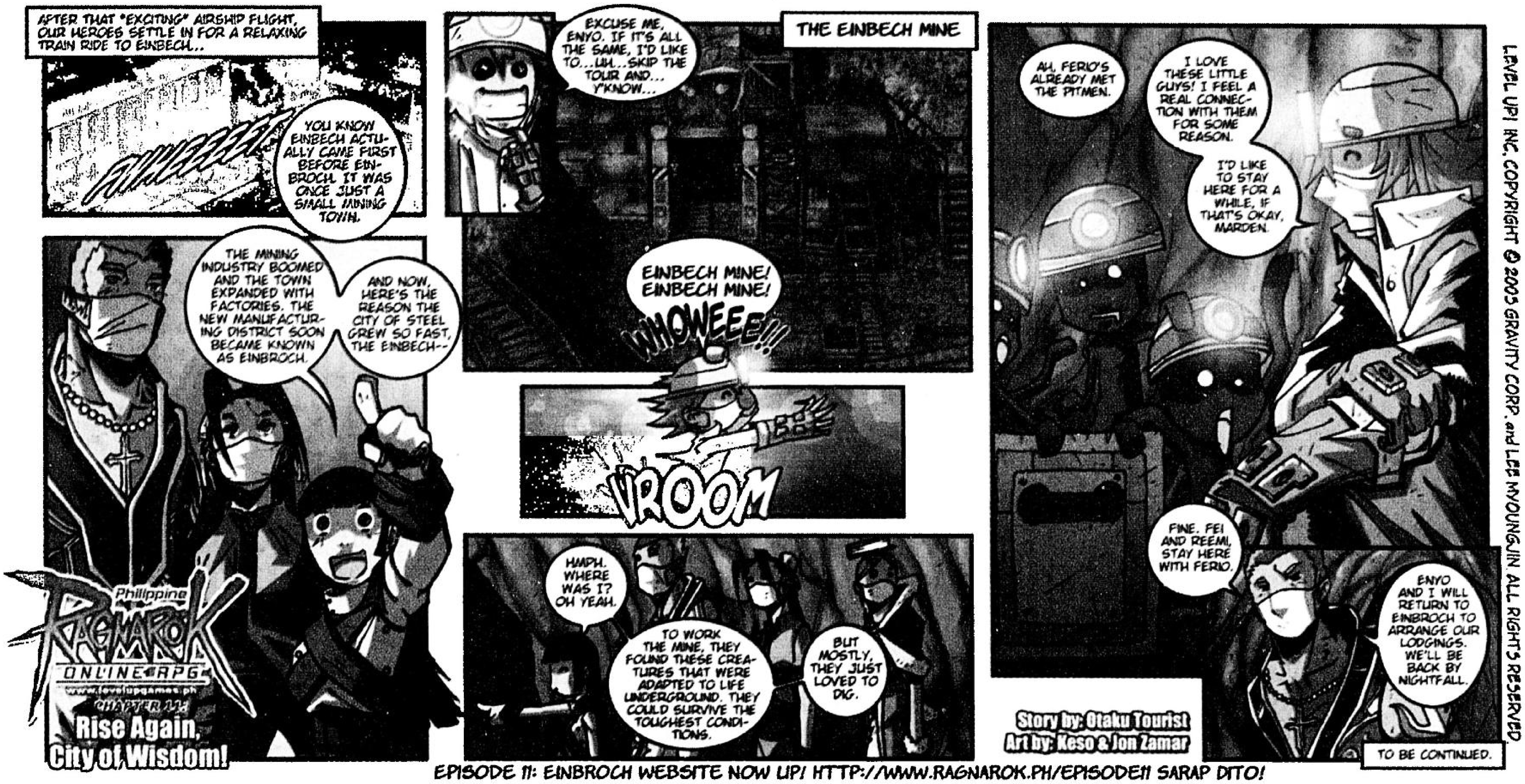
sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES


AFTER THAT "EXCITING" AIRSHIP FLIGHT, OUR HEROES SETTLE IN FOR A RELAXING TRAIN RIDE TO EINBECH..
FWHEEEET
YOU KNOW EINBECH ACTUALLY CAME FIRST BEFORE EINBROCH. IT WAS ONCE JUST A SMALL MINING TOWN.
THE MINING INDUSTRY BOOMED AND THE TOWN EXPANDED WITH FACTORIES. THE NEW MANUFACTURING DISTRICT SOON BECAME KNOWN AS EINBROCH.
AND NOW, HERE'S THE REASON THE CITY OF STEEL GREW SO FAST, THE EINBECH--
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 11:
Rise Again, City of Wisdom!
EXCUSE ME, ENYO. IF IT'S ALL THE SAME, I'D LIKE TO...UH...SKIP THE TOUR AND... Y'KNOW...
THE EINBECH MINE
EINBECH MINE! EINBECH MINE!
WHOWEEE!!!
VROOM
HMPH. WHERE WAS I? OH YEAH.
TO WORK THE MINE, THEY FOUND THESE CREATURES THAT WERE ADAPTED TO LIFE UNDERGROUND. THEY COULD SURVIVE THE TOUGHEST CONDITIONS.
BUT MOSTLY, THEY JUST LOVED TO DIG.
AH, FERIO'S ALREADY MET THE PITMEN.
I LOVE THESE LITTLE GUYS! I FEEL A REAL CONNECTION WITH THEM FOR SOME REASON.
I'D LIKE TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE, IF THAT'S OKAY, MARDEN.
FINE. FEI AND REEMI, STAY HERE WITH FERIO.
ENYO AND I WILL RETURN TO EINBROCH TO ARRANGE OUR LODGINGS. WE'LL BE BACK BY NIGHTFALL.
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: Keso & Jon Zamar
TO BE CONTINUED.

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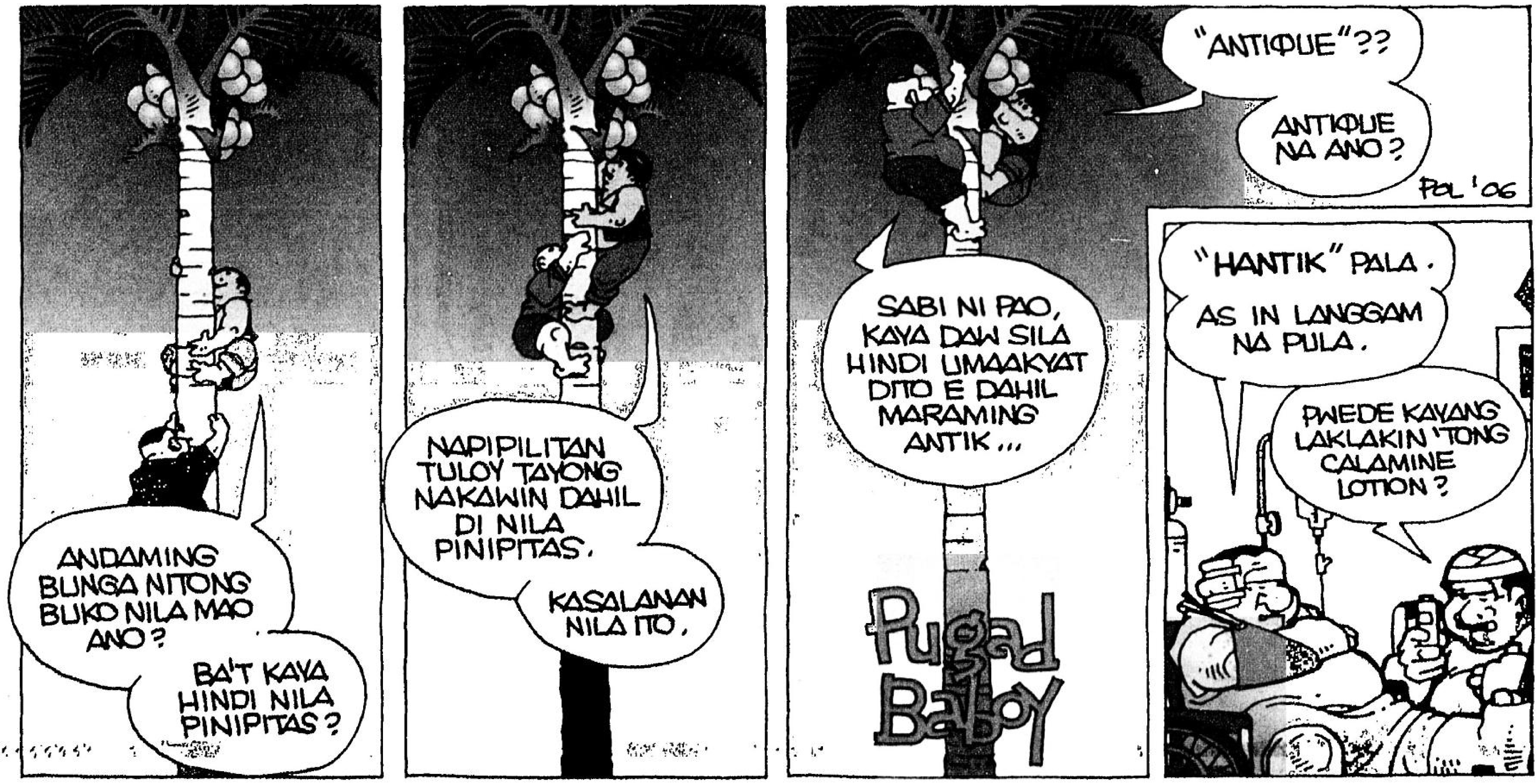
EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

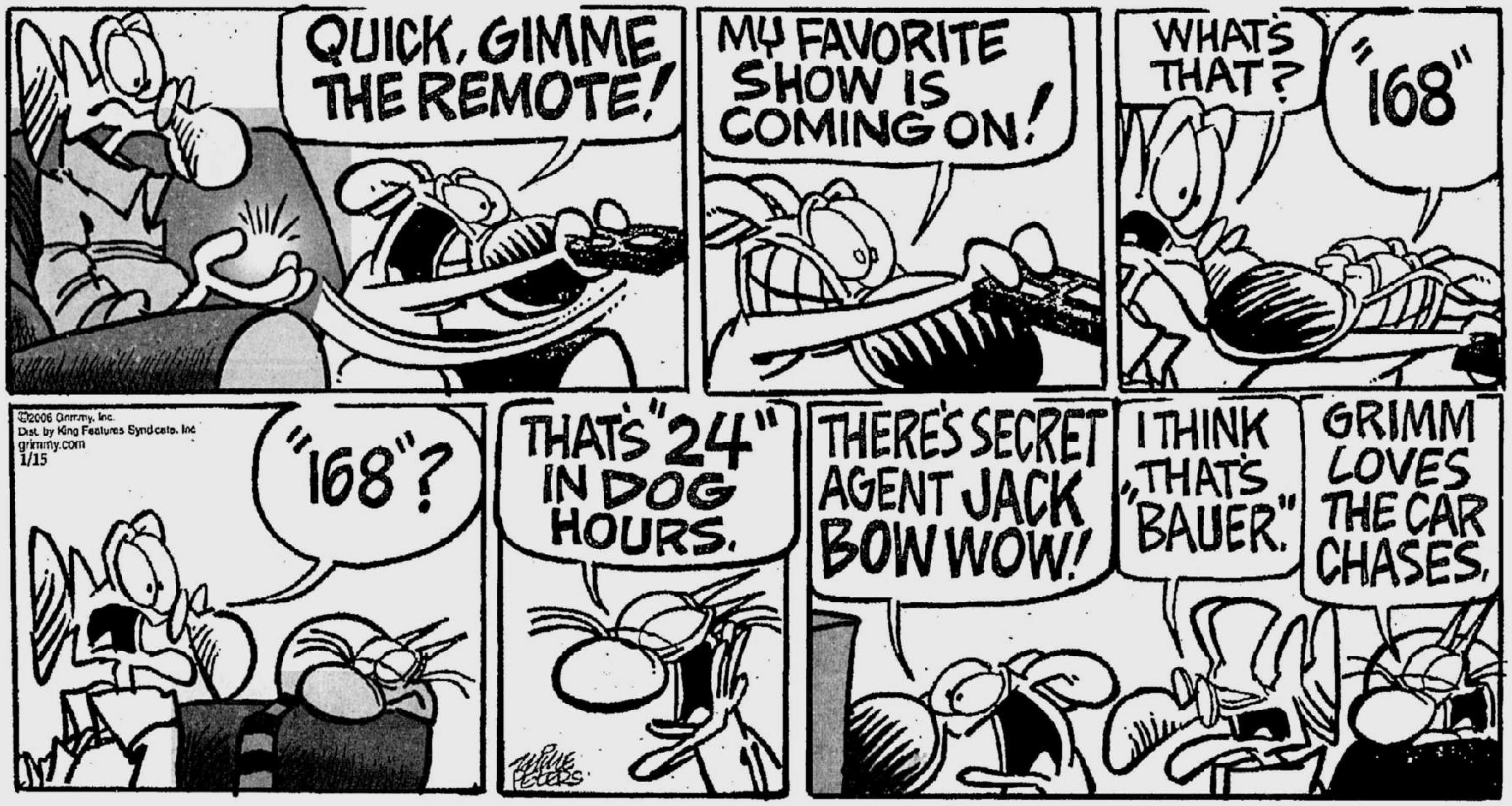
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


ANDAMING BUNGA NITONG BUKO NILA MAO ANO?
BA'T KAYA HINDI NILA PINIPITAS?
NAPIPILITAN TULOY TAYONG NAKAWIN DAHIL DI NILA PINIPITAS.
KASALANAN NILA ITO.
SABI NI PAO, KAYA DAW SILA HINDI UMAAKYAT DITO E DAHIL MARAMING ANTIK...
"ANTIQUE"??
ANTIQUE NA ANO?
POL '06
Pugad Baboy
"HANTIK" PALA.
AS IN LANGGAM NA PULA.
PWEDE KAYANG LAKLAKIN 'TONG CALAMINE LOTION?

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


QUICK, GIMME THE REMOTE!
MY FAVORITE SHOW IS COMING ON!
WHAT'S THAT?
"168"
©2006 Grimmy, Inc.
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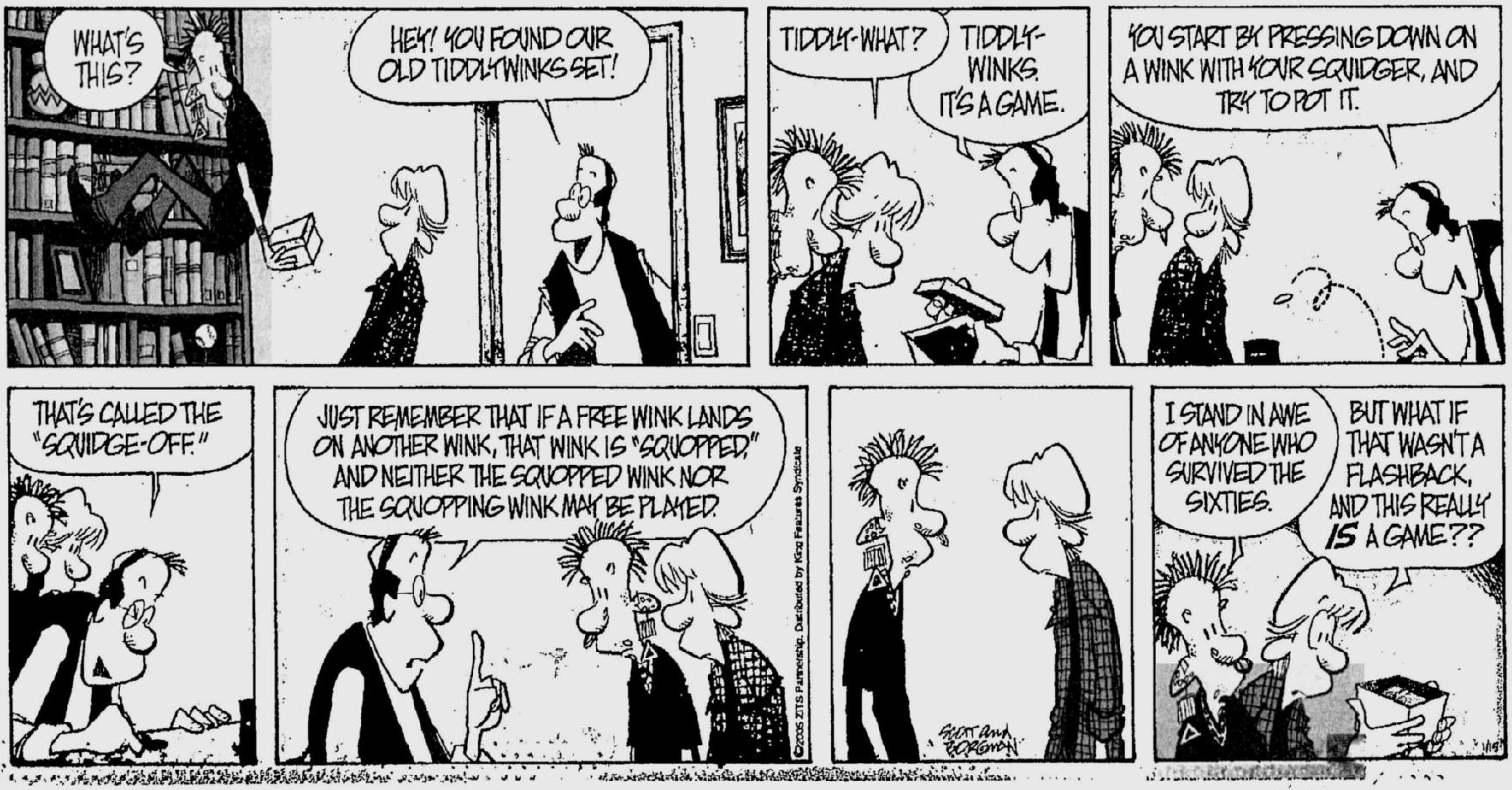
grimmy.com
1/15
"168"?
THAT'S "24" IN DOG HOURS.
MIKE PETERS
THERE'S SECRET AGENT JACK BOW WOW!
I THINK THAT'S "BAUER."
GRIMM LOVES THE CAR CHASES.

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


WHAT'S THIS?
HEY! YOU FOUND OUR OLD TIDDLYWINKS SET!
TIDDLY-WHAT?
TIDDLY-WINKS. IT'S A GAME.
YOU START BY PRESSING DOWN ON A WINK WITH YOUR SQUIDGER, AND TRY TO POT IT.
THAT'S CALLED THE "SQUIDGE-OFF."
JUST REMEMBER THAT IF A FREE WINK LANDS ON ANOTHER WINK, THAT WINK IS "SQUOPPED," AND NEITHER THE SQUOPPED WINK NOR THE SQUOPPING WINK MAY BE PLAYED.
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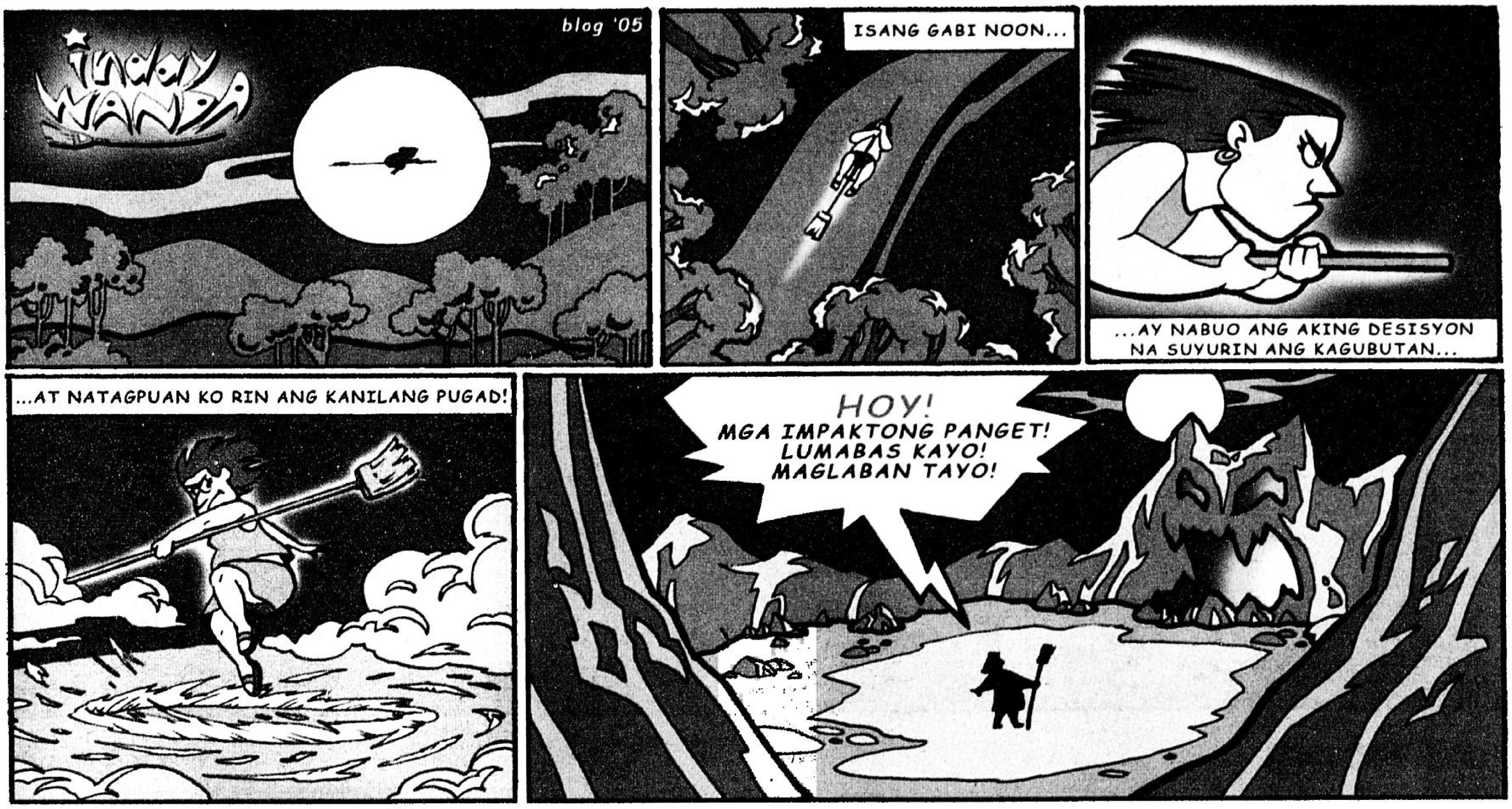
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
I STAND IN AWE OF ANYONE WHO SURVIVED THE SIXTIES.
BUT WHAT IF THAT WASN'T A FLASHBACK, AND THIS REALLY *IS* A GAME??
1/15

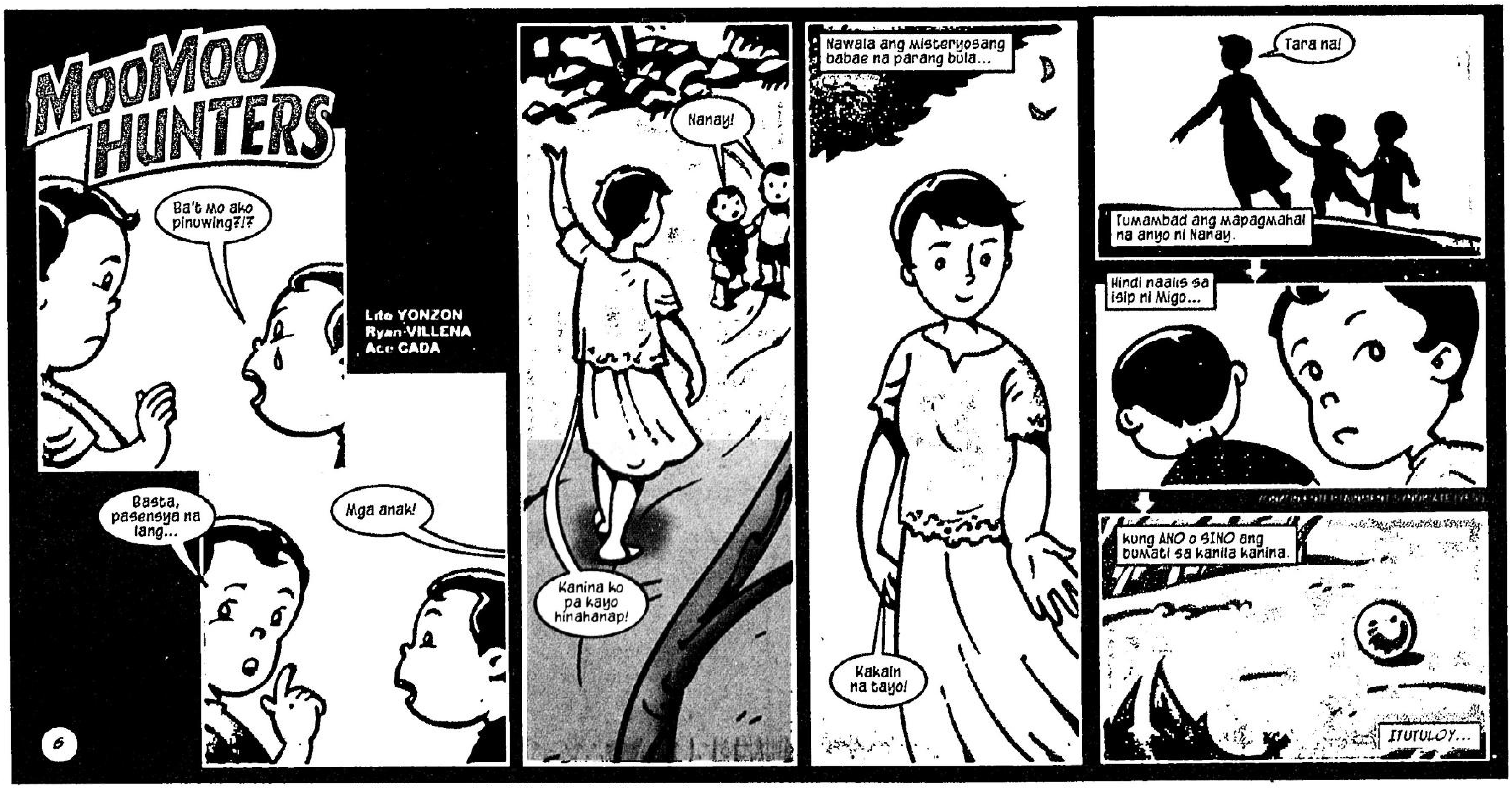
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
blog '05
ISANG GABI NOON...
...AY NABUO ANG AKING DESISYON NA SUYURIN ANG KAGUBUTAN...
...AT NATAGPUAN KO RIN ANG KANILANG PUGAD!
HOY! MGA IMPAKTONG PANGET! LUMABAS KAYO! MAGLABAN TAYO!

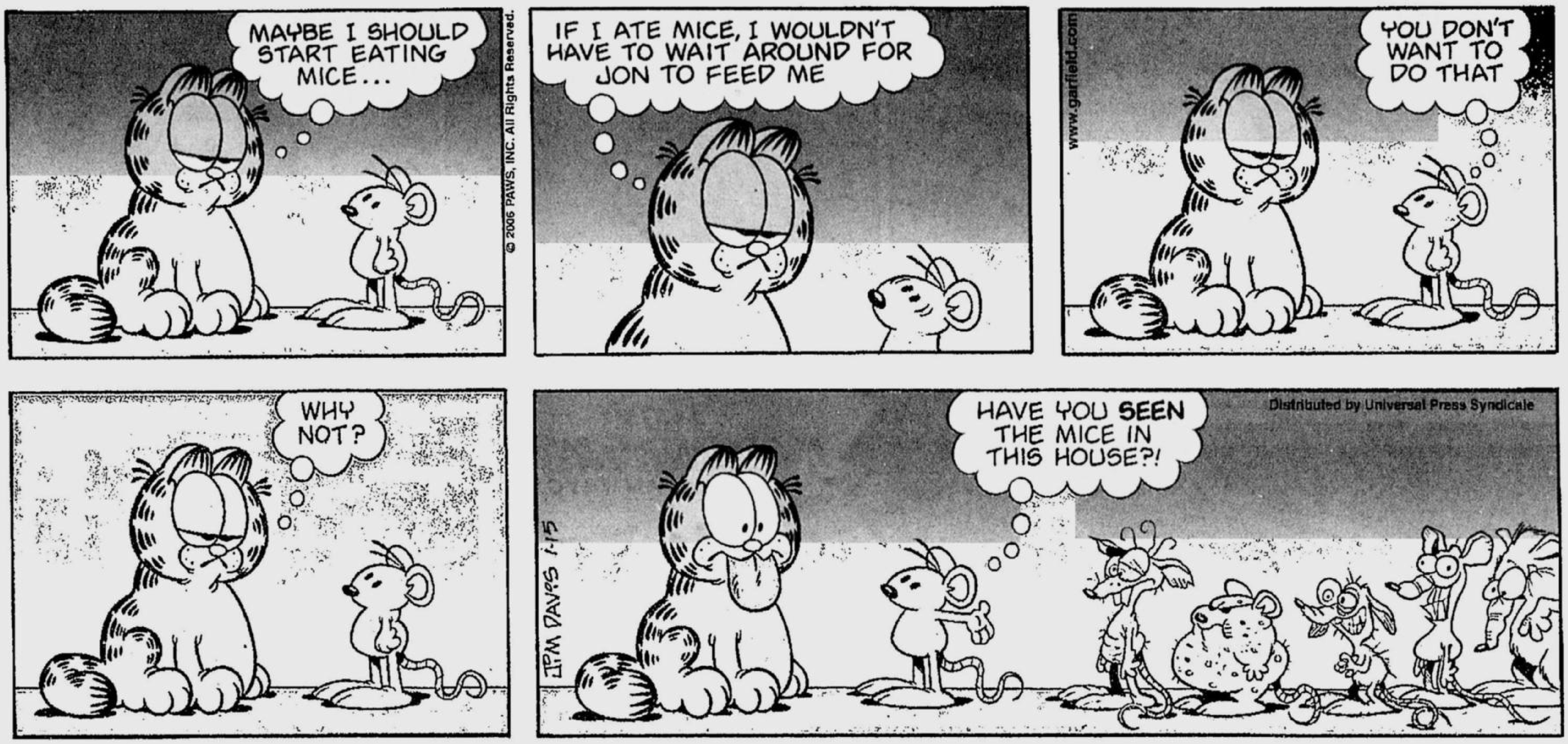
MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Ba't mo ako pinuwing?!?
Lito YONZON
Ryan·VILLENA
Ace CADA
Basta, pasensya na lang...
Mga anak!
6
Nanay!
Kanina ko pa kayo hinahanap!
Nawala ang misteryosang babae na parang bula...
Kakain na tayo!
Tara na!
Tumambad ang mapagmahal na anyo ni Nanay.
Hindi naalis sa isip ni Migo...
kung ANO o SINO ang bumati sa kanila kanina.
ITUTULOY...

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


MAYBE I SHOULD START EATING MICE...
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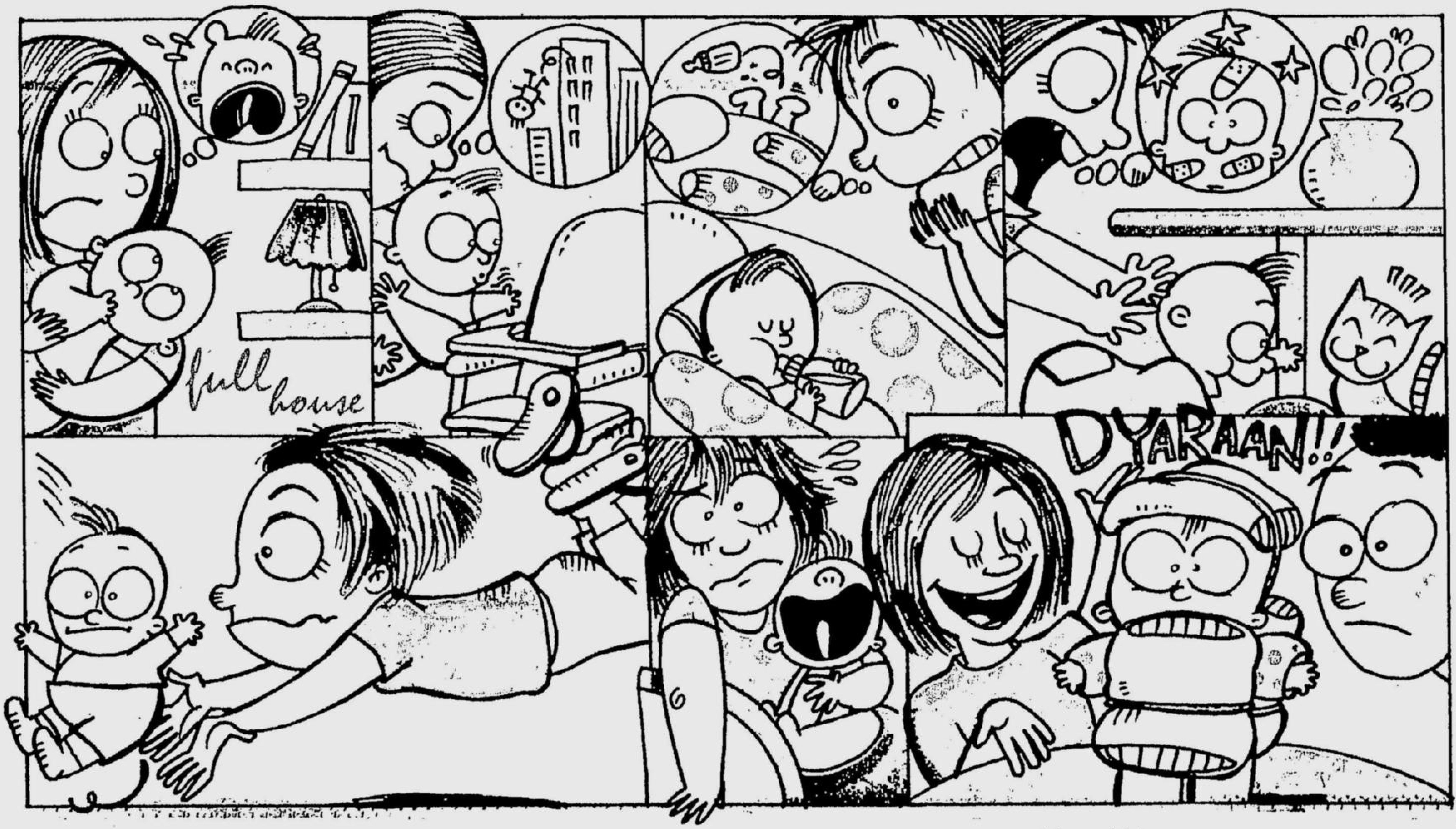
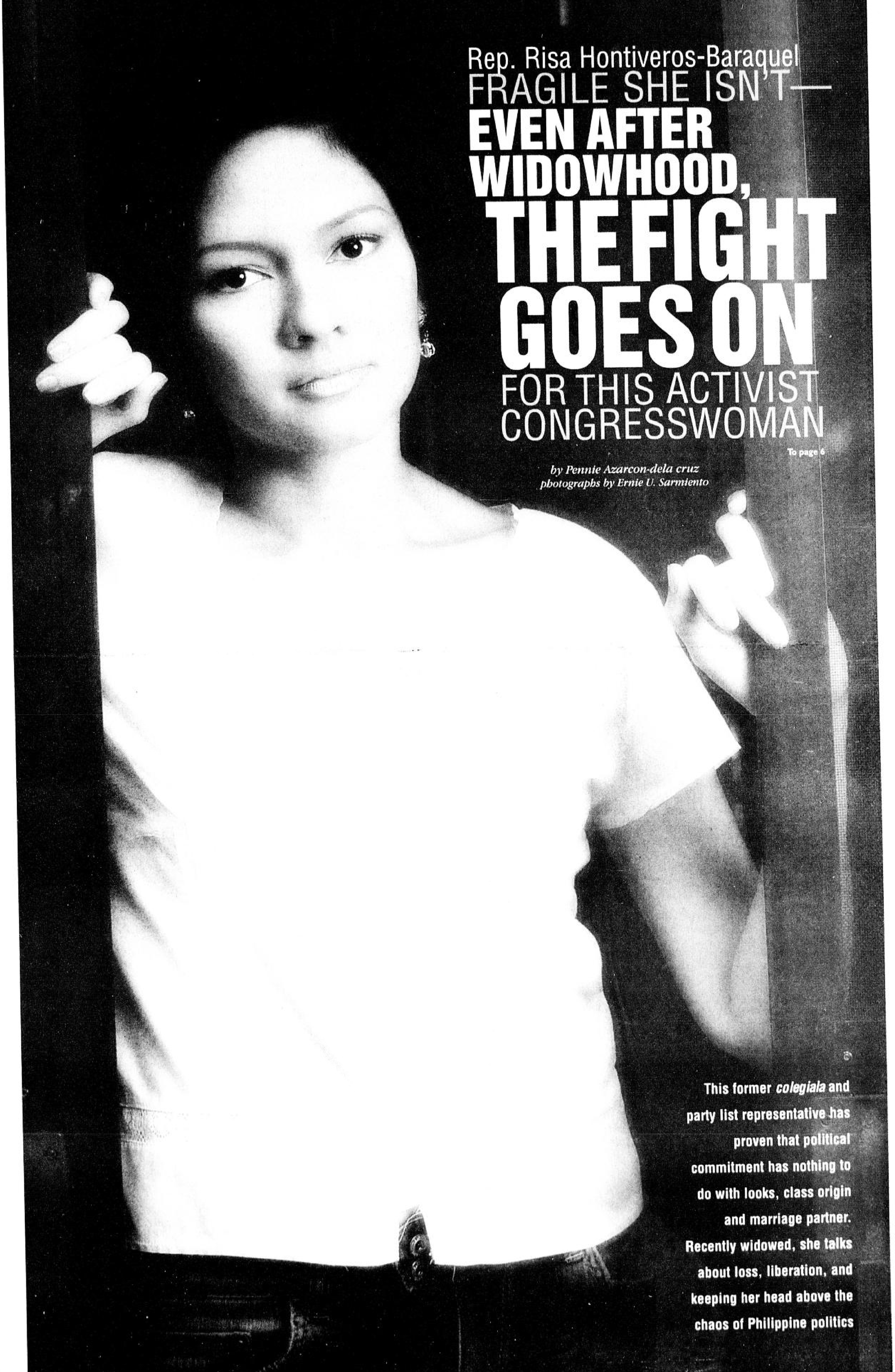
IF I ATE MICE, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WAIT AROUND FOR JON TO FEED ME
www.garfield.com
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT
WHY NOT?
JPM DAVIS 1-15
HAVE YOU SEEN THE MICE IN THIS HOUSE?!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


full house
DYARAAN!!

January 15, 2006
sundayINQUIRERmagazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel

FRAGILE SHE ISN'T— EVEN AFTER WIDOWHOOD, THE FIGHT GOES ON FOR THIS ACTIVIST CONGRESSWOMAN

To page 6

by Pennie Azarcon-dela cruz
photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

This former *colegiala* and party list representative has proven that political commitment has nothing to do with looks, class origin and marriage partner. Recently widowed, she talks about loss, liberation, and keeping her head above the chaos of Philippine politics

Manila's 'Hot' Yogi *p.3*

From Model to Farmer *p.4*

Looking for Kumander Putol *p.8*

Sunday Inquirer Magazine January 15, 2006
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May Iniwang Bomba ang Diyos

I.
Hindi pa lubusang nakapagligpit
ang taon nang magkulay-dugo
ang dati'y esmeraldang karagatan
sa may laylayan ng Asya.
Umaga iyong katulad ng dati:
pupungas-pungas ang araw
at dahan-dahan sa pag-iinat
ang mga baybaying-lungsod
ng Indonesia, Sri Lanka,
Thailand, Maldives at India
nang bigla, walang sabi-sabi,
walang paghuhunos-diling
rumagasa ang tubig-alat
at hinambalos ang dalampasigan
ng ating pamamahinga.

Di natin iyon inasahan:
sinong mag-aakalang aalon
nang gayun-gayon na lang
ang galit sa dibdib ng dagat
nang dahil lamang sa padalus-dalos
na pagdausdos ng kinauupuang lupa?

A, marami sa atin ang nakalimot
na may iniwang bomba ang Diyos
sa pantog ng kalikasan
at madalas, sumasabog ito
nang walang paalam.

II.
Pinagpala raw tayong
mga nakaligtas: sa Pilipinas,
bumubula ang bibig ng mga bulaan
sa pagsasabing ang ating kaligtasa'y
may basbas ng langit.

Ay, 'wag,
'wag n'yo akong papaniwalain
sa kabanalan ng inyong kabalbalan
sapagkat silang mga hinampas ng alon
at di na muling nakabangon
ay mga hampaslupa't may Diyos
ding di-iba sa atin.

Kristoffer Berse

Lesson on Literature 1: By Work, By Author, By Heart

"Sinong sumulat ng *Call of the Wild*?"
Tanong niya *out of the blue, by surprise,*
Mula sa pagriripaso ng indeks kontra
Teksto ng mga sanaysay sa—ukol sa,
Para sa—mga manunulat, guro, mambabasa

Gaya niya, walang angatan ng mata,
Sa binabasa, at gaya ko na ring abala:

"Hindi ko maalala—bakit? Nabanggit ba
(Ibig sabihi'y: may nawala bang pahina
O maling datos na naitipa?)?" Urirat ko
Sabay tayo sabay lapit at sipat sa pahinang
Sinisipat kanan-kaliwa, kanan-kaliwa, sabay

Hugot ng pangalan sa haluhalong kalamay
Na memoryang pilit humuhugot ng letrang

Mapagkakakilanlan, kumikilala ng personang
Di kilala, dinudukal ang alaala ng mambabasang
Di makatandang huminuha: "E. B. White—?"
Hula kong malamang sa hindi ay hindi, ngunit
Parang puti, parang kanluranin din, parang niyebe.

"Basta banyaga—alalaumbaga'y walang Pinoy
Na *wild*, walang pa-*call*, *call of call off* lamang

Na taal sa kayumangging kaluluwa nitong
Kalituhan, o kaignoransyahan—"Ngunit bakit
Nga ba talaga?" Dahil dapat kayang malaman
Ninumang nakapagturo na ng "Pagtangkilik
Ng Panitikan"? Nagkataong napadikit sa Panitik-

An? Nagkamalay na (nais) magsulat kuno ng
Panitikan (panitikanan)? Hindi naman siguro tinutuya
Dito ang musa o tinutuyo ang tinta ng haraya
Kuning-kuning? Bagamat tila baga mortal na sala
Litong di pagkabatid, di pagkabasa, sa isang akdang
Kanonikal sa panitikan ng mundo—obra maestrang
Ingles—o ikono ng kanluraning salaysay—O!

Patawarin! Hindi ako dalubhasa o nag-aastang database:
Hindi ako pantas gaya ng mga dinadambana ninyo:

"Wala sa sikmura ko, o puson, o puso ang naitanong,
Sorry, wala sa dulo ng dila ko ang ngalang Jack London."

Camilo M. Villanueva Jr.

Love Notes
Joe D'Mango

Is She Waiting In Vain?

Could it be he's just giving me false hopes so he won't feel guilty about the fact that he was wrong? Some will find this pathetic, but I still love him

Dear Joe,

I AM Toni, 23, from Manila. Miguel was my boyfriend back when we were college freshmen. I used to have a crush on him because he's really cute and smart. But everything changed when he had to drop out of school to help out at home. I had so much to do, lots of dreams to fulfill, and I was looking forward to graduating with honors. I thought this relationship would not help in any way, so I called it quits.

Even after we broke up he never stopped calling every day for almost half a year; he couldn't understand why I decided to break up when everything was just about to begin. It even came to the point when I rejected his calls and told him that I didn't love him.

After three long years we met again at my brother's wake. Vulnerable as I was, I fell for him again. He was there to keep me company and to worry about me when my best friend was in the hospital. We were finally back together and we were both happy, or so I thought.

Joe, there came a time when I felt he was taking me for granted. I felt he didn't want to be with me anymore, that he was just was waiting for the right moment to make his graceful exit. But then again, I never complained about sacrificing a few hours of sleep when he needed me. Or that maybe he found the whole situation overwhelming. Or that every disapproving remark we heard from everyone around us was too much for him. I couldn't help thinking that maybe he just wanted to get back at me for dropping him the first time. That maybe, it was all just a lie.

Joe, it has been almost a year since we were together. I never lost the love I had for him, and I still want him back. But he said the only time he can be ready to be with me is when he has proven himself worthy of my love. But I never asked for any of this. I'm not ready to let go.

Why does he always say that he's not as happy as I think, because he loves me still, and that one day he will be back? Could it be he's just giving me false hopes so he won't have to feel guilty about the fact that he was wrong? Some will find this pathetic, but I still love him. And that reason alone is enough fot me to hold on to his promise that he will return.

Sincerely
Toni

Dear Toni,

I certainly hope that Miguel is reading this right now. What you are seeing is just icing on the cake. It's what is truly behind what he says that really matters. A man distances himself from a woman for a reason. Love doesn't just die and feelings don't just fade away. Miguel couldn't have just fallen out of love. He wanted out because he wants to prove something to himself. He wants to be worthy of your love. These are all valid reasons, but could there be more?

Toni, I have always believed that unless two people in a relationship are able to openly tell each other what they feel inside, good or bad, they can never truly understand each other. It is important that Miguel tells you what he truly feels about you and your relationship. It is also his responsibility to tell you if you'd just be waiting in vain or if he just needs a little time. I also believe that love doesn't make people wait. If we really love someone then we should not play with time and promises. If we don't love a person anymore, then we just have to be honest about it, even if it hurts.

Toni, I don't blame you for not wanting to let go. I think you are just being fair to yourself by waiting for something good to happen. Talk to Miguel and listen to his heart. If he honestly tells you what he feels, then let that be your guide. Waiting is the option that most people take, but sometimes they refuse to accept it even when it's obvious that they are just waiting in vain.

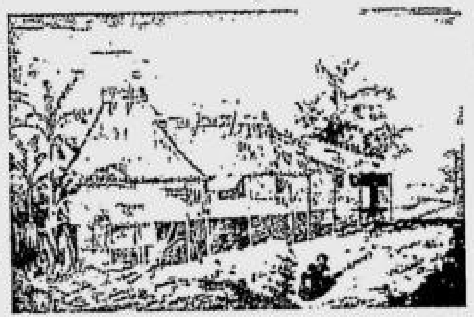
Let us always remember that sometimes, we have to use our minds over our hearts when our feelings get too strong. When we think with our hearts, loving means clinging on when what we really need to do is let go, even if we still want to hold on.

LoveNotes is heard every Friday at 10:15 in the morning with replays at 7 p.m. on Wave 89.1 FM. Get your daily love quotes from Joe D' Mango via SMS by texting ON DEARJOE to 2968. Visit the official Lovenotes website at www.lovenotes.fm

This Week

Art

Myth and Meaning, the Mangyan Heritage Center's first public display of artifacts from different Mangyan groups, pre-Hispanic indigenous script, and old-to-recent photographs depicting their way of life, until Jan. 23 at the 2/F, Ayala Museum Space, Makati Avenue. For inquiries, email mangyanhc@catsi.net.ph or call (0918) 733-7927. or 757-7117 to 21. Entrance is free.



"Rural Scene with Child" from the Met's *"Artes at Angkan"* exhibit

Rock Drilon is holding **simultaneous exhibitions** of paintings mostly done in acrylic spanning the last 20 years of his artistic practice. Drilon's paintings are on view at all Mag:net galleries-until Jan. 15 at Mag:net Gallery ABS, until Jan. 30 at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, until Jan. 30 at Mag:net Gallery Katipunan, and until Jan. 15 at the CR Gallery at Mag:net Café, Katipunan. For details, call 929-3191 or 435-2631.

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila brings back the successful exhibit *Artes at Angkan*. The exhibit looks into the passions and preoccupations of 19th century affluent Manila society. Among the Artworks and objects on view are rarely exhibited hair-embroidered landscapes attributed to Adelaida Paterno, and paintings by Juan Luna, Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo and early woman painter Paz Paterno. The exhibit runs at the Catwalk gallery until February. For details, call 523-0613.

Music

Jason Mraz Live in Manila. Acoustic rock artist Jason Mraz will perform on Jan. 21 at Rockwell Tent and on Jan. 21 at the NBC Tent to promote his second album, "Mr. A-Z," distributed by Warner Music Philippines. Tickets available at all SM Ticketnet outlets.

Pat Upton of Spiral Starecase returns to Manila to sing his hits in the '70s like "More Today Than Yesterday" and "Broken Hearted Man." Joining him in the **concert** is The Cascades' vocalist Gabe Lapano. Opening the show are The Song Masters (composed of Tito Cayamanda, Vehnee Saturno, Nonoy Tan and Mon del Rosario) and the Ramon "RJ" Jacinto. The shows are slated on Jan. 20 at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Jan. 21 at the Manila Hotel Centennial Ballroom and Jan. 22 at Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu. Tickets available at Ticketworld, National Bookstores, Tower Records, Ayala Malls Box Office and Robinsons.

A scene from *"Paalaman sa Calamba"* from the UP Playwrights' Theatre

On Jan. 21, Kuh Ledesma together with special guests Basil Vadez, Christian Bautista, Dulce, Pilita Corrales and harpist Noelle Cassandra reunite at the PICC for a repeat of *Paano Kita Mapasasalamatan*, a tribute to the late songwriter George Canseco. For tickets, call 551-7255 or 551-6296.

Onstage

Repertory Philippines opens its 2006 season on Jan. 20 with **Nobody's Perfect**, a comedy by Simon Williams about a single father who is not sure how to handle his teenaged daughter who has a mind of her own. He also has to deal with his septuagenarian father who refuses to be consigned to a home for the aged. The play features Miguel Faustmann, Ana Bitong, Charlie Barredo, and Bonggoy Manahan. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. until Feb. 5 at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage, Greenbelt 1. Call 887-0710 for tickets and information. Tickets available at Ticketworld at 8919999.

Actor's Actors Inc.'s production of the Broadway musical **Once On This Island** goes back onstage at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater on Jan. 20, 21, 22 and Feb, 3, 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. with 3 p.m. matinee performances on Sundays. The musical under Bart Guingona's direction will once again star Bituin Escalante, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael Williams and Jett Pangan as the gods of a mythical island of peasants and aristocrats. Tickets are available at Ticketworld outlets (tel. 891-9999).

The UP Playwrights' Theatre showcases three masterpieces of the late Severino Montano—**Sabina, The Ladies and the Senator** and ***Paalaman sa* Calamba (Parting at Calamba).** "Sabina" is about a young farm girl whose family reproaches her for having a relationship with an American businessman. "Parting at Calamba" is an episode in Jose Rizal's life. "The Ladies and the Senator" is a comedy about a Filipino senator visiting the US through an invitation of the Filipino Women's Club of Washington, DC. The plays will run from Jan. 18-29 at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, call Dulaang UP at 926-1349 and 920-5302 loc. 6441.

Tanghalang Pilipino welcomes the new year with laughter as it stages two one-act comedy plays—**Gee-Gee at Waterina** and **Welcome to Intelstar.** "Gee-Gee at Waterina" is a bittersweet tale about acceptance and rejection, humility and pride, loneliness and friendship, lots of money and a young man with a big beautiful smile. "Welcome to Intelstar" is an amusing and light-hearted look at people who work in the financially rewarding but rather cyclic world of call centers. Schedule of performances are Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8 p.m.; Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29 at 3 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute. For details, call 832-1125 local 1620 and 1621 (Tuesdays to Fridays).

Atbp

Tanghalang Pilipino announces **open auditions** for four male roles to play in a Filipino production of **"Waiting for Godot"** to be directed by visiting French director Alain Timar. Auditions will be held on Jan. 23 and 24 from 4 to 9 p.m. Interested parties may call Tanghalang Pilipino at 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620/1621 to register and to find out the audition venue. The director is looking for male actors 20-35 years old. They must present a monologue or a scene for two of their choice from "Waiting for Godot" (approximately 5 minutes); and another scene from any play of their choice. One piece should be in English and the other in Filipino. A copy of the Filipino translation of "Waiting" may be downloaded from www.culturalcenter.gov.ph. All interested actors must bring a resumé and two 2 x 2" color picture.

Lou Veloso in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Gee-Gee at Waterina"

In celebration of the 395th Foundation Day of the University of Sto. Tomas, the Advocate of Philippine Fair Trade, Inc. and The Department of Industrial Design, College of Fine Arts and Design, will hold **UST Goes Fair Trade**, a week-long celebration that will highlight the concepts and principles of Fair Trade, the works of Industrial Design students, and the craftsmanship of micro-cottage artisans. There will be a Fair Trade Exhibit at the Beato Angelico Gallery, CFAD from Jan. 23 to 28, Fair Trade Colloquium on Jan. 24 at the Beato Angelico Auditorium, Fair Trade Bazaar at the CFAD Lobby, Poster Making and Essay Writing Contests. For inquiries, call 454-4744/ 425-1230 or visit the website www.apfti.org.ph.

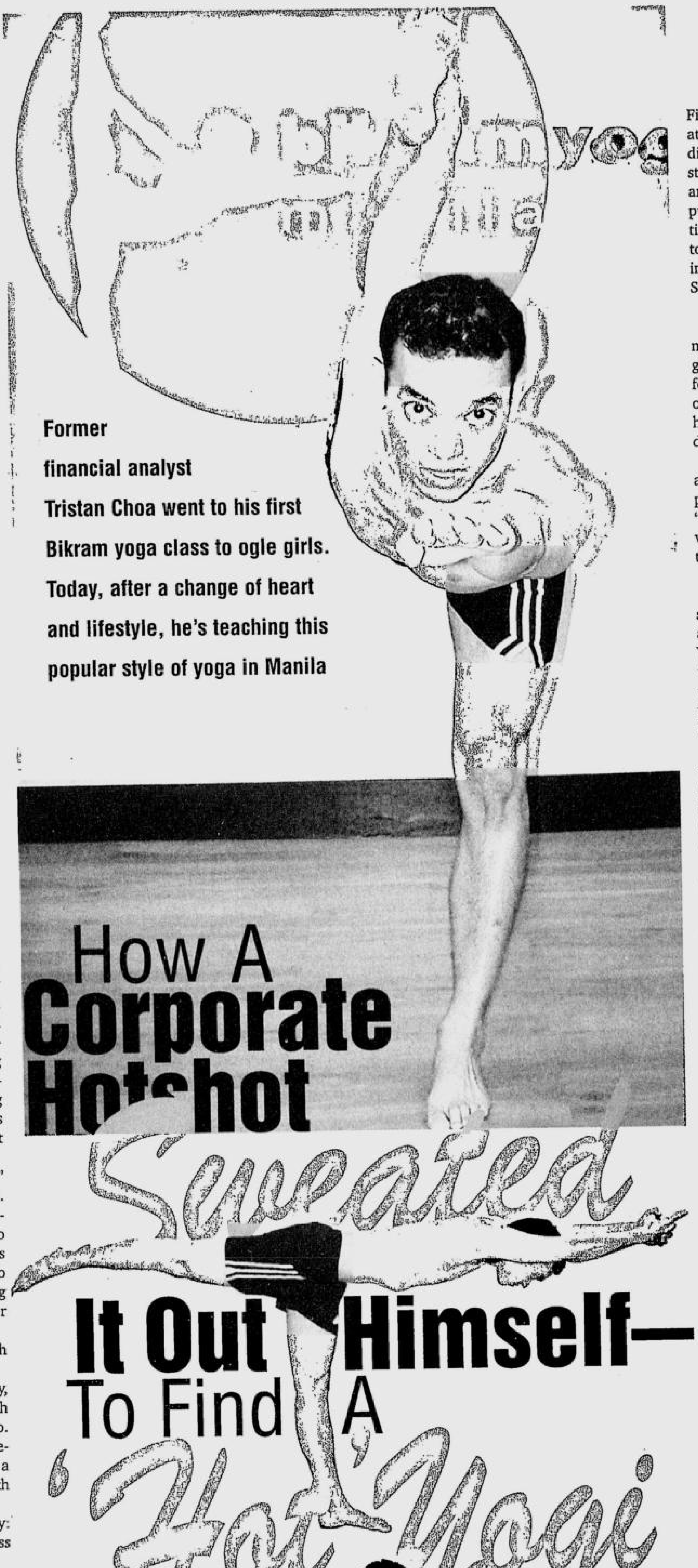
Learn **Filipino sign language** at De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde. Classes will be held three hours a week for 14 weeks. Course fee is P2,400 (plus P535 for those who do not have a DLS-CSB for Generic ID). Please contact the Filipino Sign Language Learning Program office of the School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies at 526-7441 local 131 by Jan. 20 for final class schedule and additional information. Classes start Jan. 23.

Public Presentation and Book Launching. Karl Gaspar, CSsR will present the output of his study, Mystic Wanderers in the Land of Perpetual Departures, on Jan. 28, 2:30 p.m. in Romano Hall, Baclaran Chruch, Parañaque City. For details, call the Institute of Spirituality in Asia at 721-5725 or email at spirit@tri-isys.com.

How A Corporate Hotshot Sweated It Out Himself— To Find A 'Hot Yogi'

by Eric S. Caruncho
photographs by Rodel Rotoni

Former financial analyst Tristan Choa went to his first Bikram yoga class to ogle girls. Today, after a change of heart and lifestyle, he's teaching this popular style of yoga in Manila



“FOCUS on yourself for the next 90 minutes,” says 35-year-old yoga instructor Tristan Choa to the roomful of students standing before him.

“Look at yourself in the mirror, and realize that you are looking into the eyes of your own best teacher.”

They have yet to flex a muscle or bend a joint, but already beads of sweat are beginning to form on the students' brows.

It's not because of nervousness.

The room is a sweatbox. It is meant to be: Those blowers arrayed throughout the gym aren't air conditioners, they're space heaters, designed to keep temperatures at a toasty 38 degrees Celsius. Not quite the sauna people warned me about, it feels more like stepping out of an air-conditioned car into a hot summer's day.

The heated room is a unique feature of Bikram yoga, the particular style of the age-old health system being taught here. Also known as “hot yoga,” it is meant to facilitate stretching by warming up the muscles, and promote detoxification through sweat, lots of it.

In fact, it should be hotter, says Choa. In the US, the thermostat is typically set at 42 degrees, but adjustments have been made for the higher humidity in the tropics. Otherwise, the students would drop like flies. Each one carries a large towel and a water bottle or Gatorade aside from their yoga mats; they are going to need them.

Health regimen

After two warm-up rounds of pranayama breathing exercises, Choa leads his students through a sequence of 26 *asanas* or yoga postures that stretch every muscle fiber, tendon and ligament. Ten minutes into the workout, the students are drenched in sweat. At the end of the 90 minutes, their towels are soaked and the elegant hardwood floors of the studio are glistening with droplets of sweat, but the students themselves are glowing with a new-found feeling of well-being, energy and tranquility. Hopefully, when they wake up the next morning with every muscle sore, the memory of this feeling will carry them through to the next workout.

“We advocate yoga as a health regimen,” says Choa as his students hit the showers. “People bring different things into the practice: some want to lose weight, some want to gain flexibility, some want to reduce stress by keeping their minds clear, some want to improve their balance because they're doing martial arts, some want to do rehab for sports injuries.”

All of these goals are attainable through yoga, he says, and more.

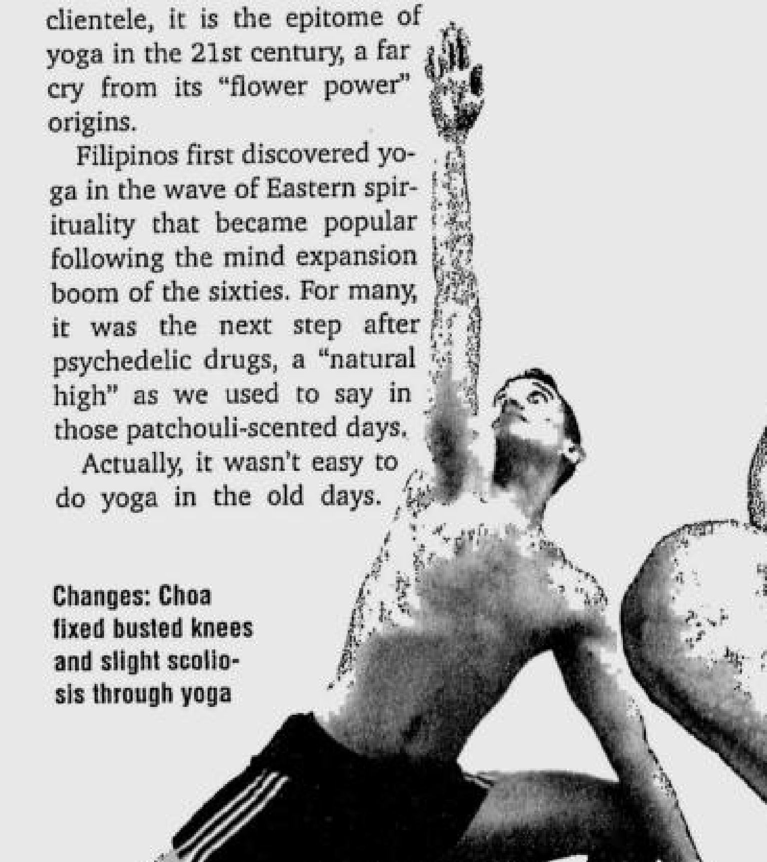
“I don't want us to be trendy. Basically, what I'm saying is: consider us as a health regimen, without the usual mumbo-jumbo. Treat it as something that will help you regain your birthright, which is to have a straight spine even when you're 90, with your legs mobile.”

The other benefits will follow naturally: strength, the flexibility of a child, stress management and mental discipline.

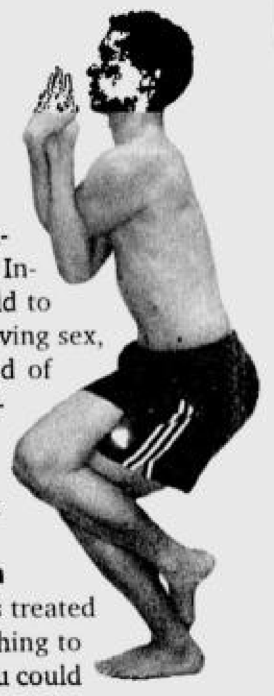
Choa is the director and owner of Bikram Yoga Manila, which opened its doors only last November. Located in a posh Makati high-rise at the heart of the city's business district, it offers several classes a week for beginning yoga students. With its clean, modern interiors and predominantly yuppie clientele, it is the epitome of yoga in the 21st century, a far cry from its “flower power” origins.

Filipinos first discovered yoga in the wave of Eastern spirituality that became popular following the mind expansion boom of the sixties. For many, it was the next step after psychedelic drugs, a “natural high” as we used to say in those patchouli-scented days.

Actually, it wasn't easy to do yoga in the old days.



Changes: Choa fixed busted knees and slight scoliosis through yoga



In *Garudasana*: Part of the “mainstreaming of yoga”

First, you had to be “initiated” by a scary-looking Indian dude in orange, told to stop eating meat and having sex, and go through a period of purification that sometimes included having to bang pots and pans in public, chanting in Sanskrit.

Selfless devotion

Doing the *asanas* was treated more as a chore, something to get out of the way so you could focus on the more important matter of reaching “God-consciousness” through hours and hours of meditation or selfless devotion to the guru and to Krishna.

Well, it was either that, or follow the diagrams in Richard Hittleman's yoga paperbacks that taught you how to do the “Cobra,” the “Locust,” and if you were adventurous enough, the Headstand, all in the privacy of your own home.

Things couldn't be more different.

Today, yoga is all about the *asanas*. Instead of scary-looking Indian dudes in orange, you have hard bodies in spandex. Vegetarianism is still encouraged, but thankfully, nobody espouses celibacy anymore, not after Sting went public about yoga's wonderful effects on the quality of his orgasms.

In fact, the celebrity factor seems to be at the heart of the current yoga boom. Madonna does it, Oprah does it, Woody Harrelson teaches it and supermodel Christy Turlington came out on the cover of Time Magazine to promote it.

Even in Manila, the prospective yogi has different types of yoga instruction to choose from. In the age of media mass marketing, even yoga comes in brands. You have Iyengar, Ashtanga, Kundalini and now, Bikram.

The last is named after its founder, Bikram Choudhury, a flamboyant, controversial figure who is sometimes referred to in the media as “the Bill Gates of yoga” and, somewhat less flatteringly, as “yoga's bad boy.” Having patented his own unique style of yoga—a move which has made his organization more streamlined, but has critics howling in protest over the seeming attempt to trademark a centuries-old system of thought—Bikram now presides over a multimillion-dollar yoga empire. Like any multinational company, it operates franchises all over the world from its headquarters in Los Angeles.

Critics have zeroed in on Bikram's decidedly un-ascetic lifestyle—he hobnobs with celebrities and owns several Rolls Royces. They accuse him of selling “McYoga,” a kind of homogenized, fast food version of the real thing.

But Bikram's students swear by his method's effectiveness. Many claim to have been cured of various ailments, ranging from back pain and arthritis to life-threatening illnesses such as cancer and multiple sclerosis, through the regular practice of yoga. And at a time when many students paradoxically end up injuring themselves through overenthusiastic stretching, Bikram's patented “hot yoga,” students claim, seems to work in preventing the usual torn ligaments and pulled muscles.

Prime example

“In general, yoga is good for you,” says Choa. “You just have to find the style that fits your personality. Hopefully, people will find that Bikram yoga works for them.”

Choa himself is a prime example of what he terms the “mainstreaming” of yoga. Not too long ago, this holder of an MBA from Columbia University was on the fast track to corporate success, having worked for a series of multinational companies as a financial analyst and management specialist, until he took an unexpected detour and discovered yoga.

The youngest of four sons, Choa's father was a Hong Kong native who moved to the Philippines in the 1950s, while his mother was born and bred in Baguio City. Choa himself grew up in Manila, where he attended in Xavier School. It was more or less presumed that he was going to become a top corporate executive, and for college, he enrolled in the Industrial and Management Engineering program of Rensselaer Polytechnic, a college in upstate New York.

“I was a bit of a nerd,” he recalls. “I studied six hours a day. The only thing that kept me from being a complete nerd was the fact that I did sports.”

To page 7

by Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

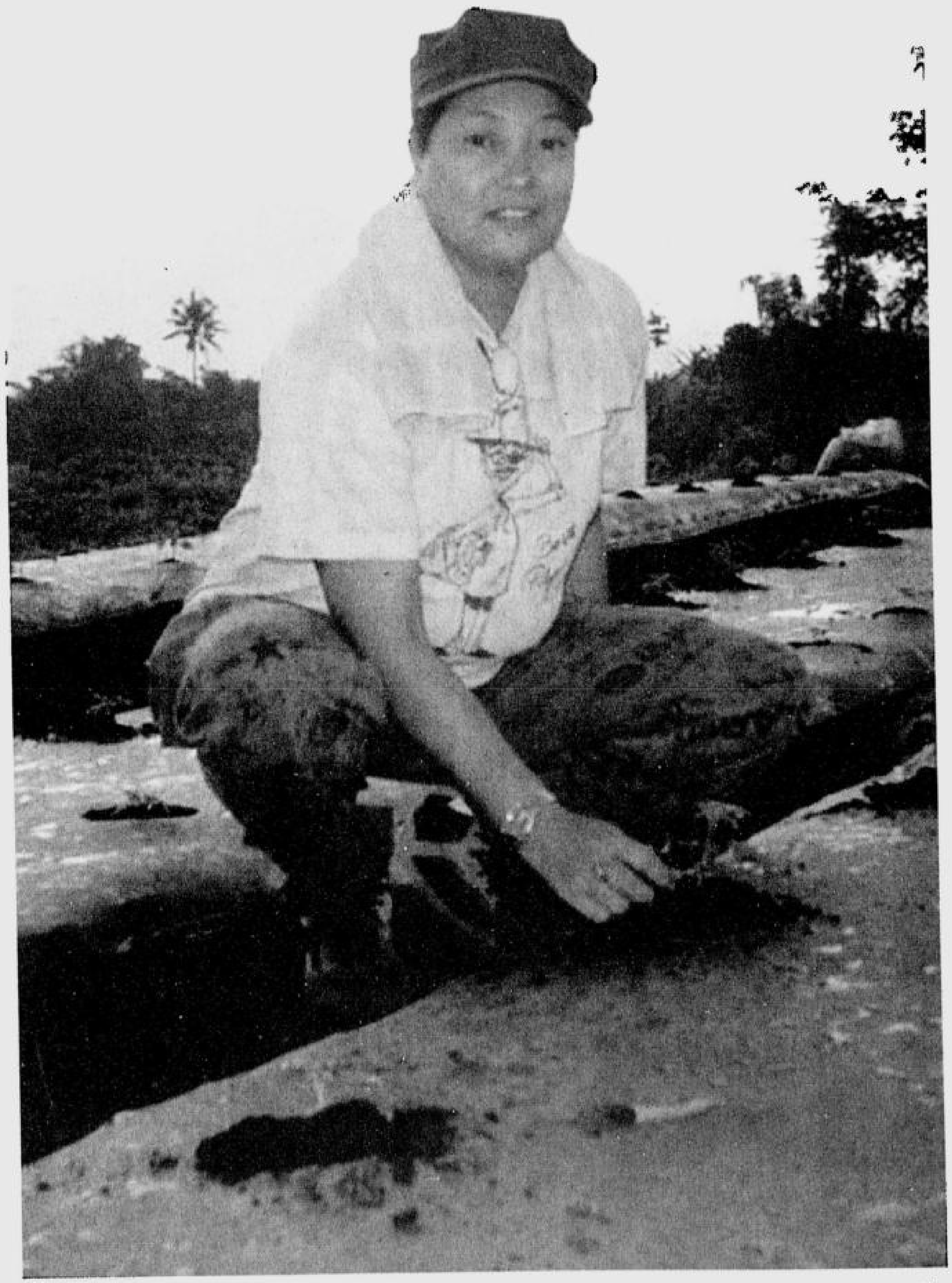
From the Ramp to the Fields, This Former Model Is Now A Model Farmer

NAGA CITY—She was a top model in the '70s and the '80s, a sought-after face who appeared in commercials, endorsed brands and walked the ramp.

Fe "Ping" Federis, who once wanted to be a nun, belonged to the first wave of professional models of branded ready-to-wear apparel when RTW was just starting to make headway in the country's upscale department stores.

Today, few people might recognize Ping, as the once glamorous model has settled into a quiet life at the foot of Mt. Isarog in Bicol and ventured into commercial organic farming. Although she still drives a silver blue Mercedes Benz around town, Ping now lives the simple life of a farm hand who finds peace of mind cultivating the good earth.

JUAN ESCANDOR JR.



When she was in her late teens, Ping became a flight stewardess for Philippine Airlines, a job she held for only three months or so, because she landed a modeling job at Alpha Textiles. Called the "Jazzie Models," she and other models promoted ready-to-wear clothes made from Alpha Textiles.

Poster girl

A year after, she was among the top models under director Gary Flores, who had regular shows at the top hotels of the country. Named as the top Hyatt model in 1982, she became the hotel's poster girl, promoting the hotel worldwide. That exposure led to a modeling job in 1983 for Runway and Image, two agencies based in Singapore, where she did commercial and ramp modeling for three years.

At the height of Ping's modeling career she was a stunning 5'7", 110-lb woman who graced local and international fashion magazines. With her flawless tanned skin, she did nudes without hesitation.

Ping had a fleeting moment with Billy Moses, the star of the '80s TV hit series "Falcon Crest." The couple graced the cover and inside pages of Male Review, the fashion magazine for men. Ping's photos were also regularly featured in Her World magazine, Singapore's best-selling women's magazine, as she endorsed a variety of garments and skin-care products.

Several months before the downfall of the Marcos dictatorship, Ping decided to visit friends in the Philippines. She met Aureo Alonso, a top designer in the '80s, who invited her to join Fiesta Filipina in Europe, a tourism blitz promoting Filipino culture and fashion. "I did not hesitate. I said 'yes' even as I had already committed myself to work in Japan," says Ping. She canceled her Japan sojourn and stayed with friends in Manila, rehearsing for the show in Europe and accepting other projects on the side. "I chose Europe over Japan because there's Paris, the place to break into international modeling," she explains.

She was a top model in the 1980s, until two failed relationships and a serious illness derailed her career. Now, Ping Federis finds peace of mind running an organic farm in Camarines, where she also advocates healthy living

Ultimately lost

But Ping's chance to get to Europe for an international modeling career was lost when the Marcoses were driven out from power. She went back to Naga City to calm herself and decided to pursue a business administration course at the Ateneo de Naga University.

Ping did not make it. She was unable to enroll for the last semester because of a debilitating lung illness. She had to stay home most of the time. "I felt sore all over," she says, dragging on her cigarette. "I felt like I was dying and I could not sleep flat on the bed." She eventually recovered from pulmonary embolism.

The illness was a huge setback for this fourth child of landed parents of Spanish-Chinese descent in Naga City. Ping grew up the center of attention in a protected and sheltered environment, being the only girl among six siblings. She found herself constantly surrounded by men and not just in the family but by choice, enjoying verbal skirmishes with them.

But Ping saw herself zapped of energy after two successive failed relationships. She had a son each with the two men. "But that's water under the bridge now. We're on good terms and celebrate Christmas together," she adds.

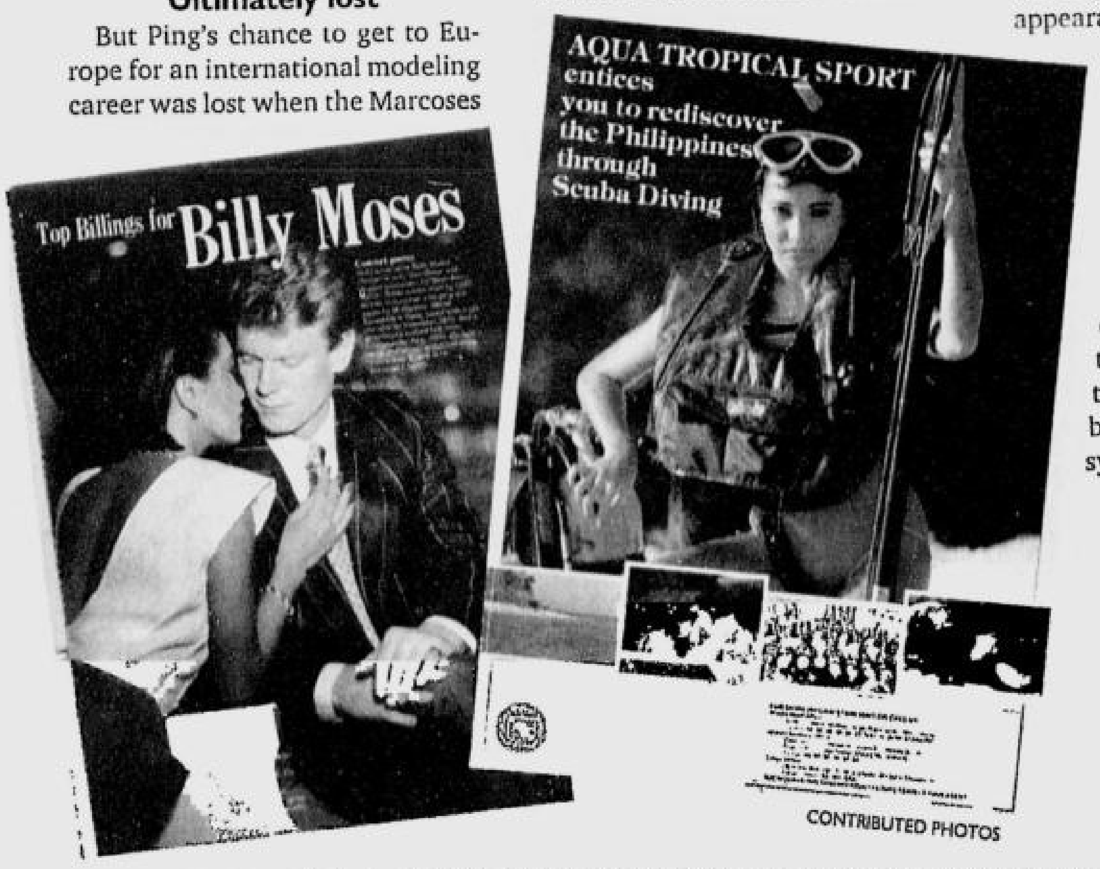
Her illness prompted her to go back to her roots and continue the legacy of her deceased parents, that is, to nurture the estate that brought them the good life. She also surmised that she would find peace by communing with nature. When she took over as administrator of the 40-hectare Federis estate in Magarao, Camarines Sur, she decided to go into organic vegetable farming production to advocate a healthy diet. It was another way to raise people's consciousness about healthful living, she adds.

Transformation

After three years, her farming venture is just about ready to hit the Metro Manila market next year. Her hard work has borne fruit, says this organic farmer whose day starts before sunrise and ends at dusk. Her responsibilities include troubleshooting everything from smoothing out relationships among farm workers, to taking care of the backlog in the production schedule. On weekends, Ping visits her friends, most of them male lawyers, and engages them in tough talk and some good old-fashioned singing in a watering hole in a nearby subdivision.

From all indications, Ping's transformation from top ramp model to farm hand is now complete, as she is known to the families of her second generation farm workers simply as Ping Federis, the landlady. In fact, this former svelte model has ballooned to 150 lbs, but says she cares less about her appearance and more about living a life with no restrictions.

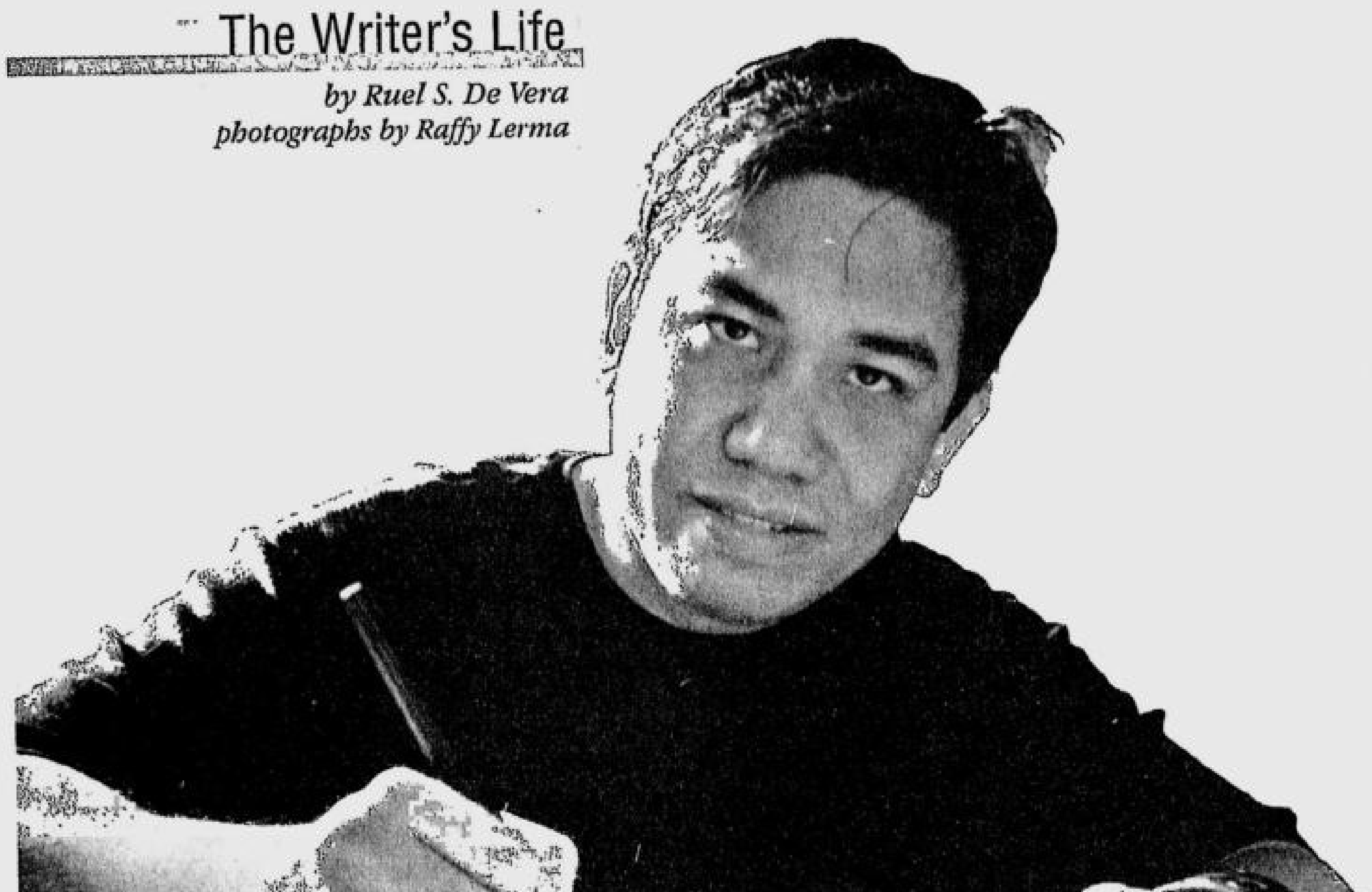
She has not totally turned her back on the modeling industry, however. When time permits and the situation demands it, Ping helps develop local talents and modeling consultants. "It's a recurring itch that I cannot always resist, because it's been part of my system," she says.


Top Billings for Billy Moses
AQUA TROPICAL SPORT entices you to rediscover the Philippines through Scuba Diving

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

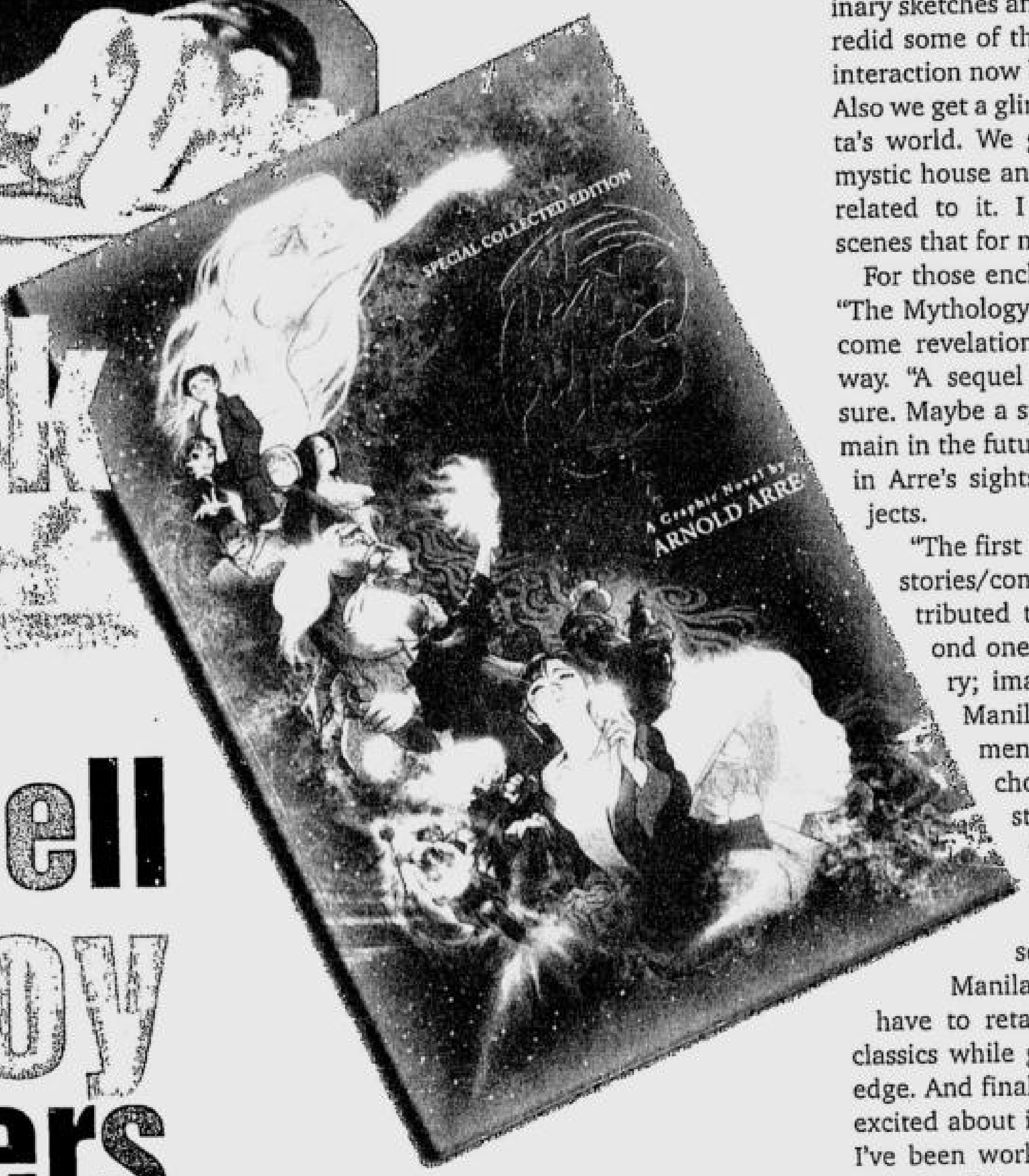
Glamor girl: Magazine spreads during her days as a top model

by Ruel S. De Vera
photographs by Raffy Lerma



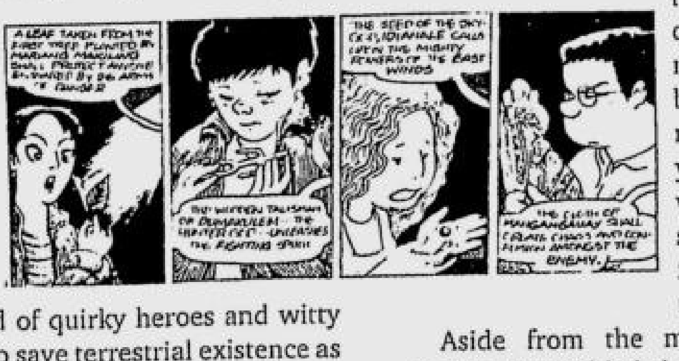
The Comic Book Wizard Casts His Spell On Pinoy Characters

Now that his breakthrough "Mythology Class" series is back in a collected edition, Arnold Arre talks about the next Filipino classics he's making magical



THE very idea crackles with the unleashed energies of those battling that prime scourge of the creative: boredom. This was how Arnold Arre came to think of what it would be like to see a *tikbalang*, that strange, horse-headed denizen of Filipino folklore, taking a purposeful stroll down modern Metro Manila streets. "In 1993, to escape the humdrum of ad agency life, I began doing a series of sketches in between projects. They were simple drawings of *tikbalangs* and *engkantos* in modern settings like Edsa and Makati. I don't know of any other reason except that they were fun to draw," the 34-year-old Arre explains.

That spark of an idea transfigured itself into "The Mythology Class," an ambitious four-issue comic book series that cleverly wove together adventure, friendship, romance and a taste for Filipino legends, published by pioneering Alamat Comics in 1999. Now, for the first time, "The Mythology Class" is available in a special collected edition from Adarna House's Anino imprint, with Arre making revisions and additions. An entirely new audience will be able to enter Arre's world of quirky heroes and witty magical beings—in a battle to save terrestrial existence as we know it, of course—through this 350-page tome.



Along the way, Arre has grown comfortably into the role of visual visionary. His distinctive, accessible art and dialogue-heavy plotting continues to grow stronger. In fact, he just represented the Philippines at the World Comic Convention in Bucheon, Korea. "What's great about meeting artists from all over the world is that you get to see the cultures that influenced their work. You also get to share ideas about the comic industry in general and how it is changing. All in all, it was a great conference. I got to see Seoul and taste authentic kimchi," he says.

Love of movies

A very visual person since his childhood, Clem Arnold Lawrence Arre is the son of an engineer and a literature teacher; this diversity in disciplines is further reflected in Arre's siblings, a college professor and an architect. "I loved collecting comics and talking about them with friends in school or at home, but at that time I was already confident with my skills," he recalls. That's why Arre thought that he was fated to become a filmmaker. But after a failed attempt at making a film in high school, Arre changed plans, electing to hone his drawing skills instead. "I came to love the medium of comics again and it has never changed since. I still apply my influences in film when I'm imagining panels or scenes so my love of movies is still there."

After earning his Fine Arts degree from the University of the Philippines in 1994, Arre worked as a freelance artist and designer, ultimately working for foreign clients and a succession of big advertising agencies. "I began looking for comics that dealt with the topic of Philippine mythology but I couldn't find any except for children's books. I felt a need to retell Philippine mythology, and that's what started it all," Arre recalls. "So I decided to make my own comics, but it would take me four more years before I would actually sit down and flesh out the entire book."

Aside from the mythological elements, Arre added the *barkada* aspect by thinking up a colorful group of youthful protagonists. "I missed college life during that time so one idea was to give the story a little bit of the experiences I had with my friends in UP. The story just wrote itself from that moment on."

The best part

That soaring story centered on UP anthropology student Nicole Lacson, a girl who holds a passionate love for Filipino myths passed down from her grandfather. Together with a charmingly motley assortment of companions, she meets the mysterious Mrs. Enkanta and races to recapture the escaped *enkantos* in the human world. "The Mythology Class" attracted critical praise, and also opened the eyes of many Filipinos to the changing landscape of local comic books.

"It's really a nice feeling, being able to do your own version of stories that have been passed on for centuries. It would be a shame if all these are lost, so this was my way of preserving these stories that make up our culture and identity and retell them to this present generation. I frequently get letters from readers saying that I've managed to pique their interest in Philippine mythology. For me that's the best part."

Arre won a Manila Critics Circle Book Award for "The Mythology Class" and for his one-shot, the future tale "Trip To Tagaytay." He continued to expand his horizons with a full-length graphic novel, "After Eden," in 2002. Aside from exhibits, Arre also collaborated with other talents, including a turn as artist for Gerry Alanguilan's ("Wasted") take on "Mars Ravelo's Lastikman." Out of all that work, Arre planted his own flag in the field by establishing Tala Studios. The studio takes its name from the ethereal, flying messenger from "The Mythology Class."

Arre's partner in Tala Studios is artist/graphic designer Cynthia Bauzon. They met back in college, when Arre would see her in the corridors. "I never really got to know her better," he says. "I got the chance in 1997 during the release of the Eraserheads' 'Fruitcake' book which she beautifully illustrated. To be honest I felt a bit intimidated by her talent when I saw her work." The two kept in touch even when Bauzon had to leave to study in New York for two years and, upon her return, the two became an item, eventually marrying. "I would say that she taught me a great deal in terms of illustrating and graphic design. I'm a better artist now because of her."

New perspective

Working on "The Mythology Class" after so many years was like "opening a time capsule" as Arre's style had developed quite a bit since the series first came out. "It's because I felt as if I've spent so much energy in writing, drawing and releasing the original version back in '99 that I decided to take a break and write other stories. There's no doubt in my mind that I would eventually release a collected edition, but I was so tired back then that I just wanted to enjoy the thought that my hard work is out there and finally being read. Also, the pause gave me a chance to see the book from a new perspective since I'll be looking at it as a reader and not as an artist."

Aside from the DVD-style extras included in the new edition such as preliminary sketches and promotional art, Arre redid some of the pages. "There's more interaction now between the characters. Also we get a glimpse inside Mrs. Enkanta's world. We get to see more of the mystic house and how the *enkantos* are related to it. I changed some of the scenes that for me seemed rushed."

For those enchanted by the events of "The Mythology Class," Arre has a welcome revelation: More may be on its way. "A sequel maybe, I'm not really sure. Maybe a spin-off." Those ideas remain in the future for now. Immediately in Arre's sights are sveeral book projects.

"The first is a compilation of short stories/comics I've done or contributed to anthologies. The second one is a youth-oriented story; imagine 'After Eden' set in Manila minus the fantasy elements. For the third one, I'm choosing one of our classic stories—I'm thinking either 'Florante at Laura,' 'Ibong Adarna,' or maybe 'El Fili'—and setting it in present day Manila. This one is tricky since I have to retain the essence of these classics while giving it a contemporary edge. And finally the one that I'm really excited about is a superhero comic that I've been working on since 2002. The only detail I can give for now is that it's 'non-spandex.'"

Open to adventure

So are these new endeavors moving away from the mythological elements found in Arre's best-known work? "With the book I plan to release next, I would say yes. Actually it really depends on how I treat the story and the mood I'm in. Sometimes I feel like going back to exploring or even expanding on what I've learned about Philippine mythology then there are days when I feel that those ideas can wait."

As he pushed forward on his own quest of finding new dimensions to explore, Arnold Arre exults "The Mythology Class" finally reentering print and taking its place among the important works in Philippine comic books, one that is once again open to adventurous young readers. "It's a chance for me to share my work with new readers to let them find out that there's more to our myths than they think. For those who read the original version, I want them to feel like they're meeting old friends." Q

For more information, log on to http://www.arnold-arre.com

Risa

...from page 1

THOSE who've seen Akbayan party list representative Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel link arms with movie actress Susan Roces and former President Cory Aquino in protest rallies might have wondered if the collective moral force of three grieving widows would be enough to topple the present administration.

After all, Filipinos love and support the underdog. As upright widows who bravely took on the interrupted mission of their husbands, Roces and Aquino became themselves heroines, underdogs transformed into symbols who could do no wrong.

But Risa is no political widow, her husband Frank Baraquel being a police superintendent who succumbed to a heart attack due to severe asthma in May last year. He was only 43.

Still, widowhood seems to have invested Risa the necessary gravitas to take on the heavy mantle of political leadership. Baraquel's death, she admits, has relieved her of the pressures that come from balancing respect and deference for her husband's position as a member of a government institution, with her very public role as a political figure exposing that government's excesses.

She recounts: "Every time I talk about the *jueteng* issue and the alleged involvement of the Arroyos in the illegal numbers game, (First Gentleman) Mike Arroyo would send word to him." Her husband respected her principles and sometimes even shared them, says Risa, but he worked for the government after all, and she constantly worried about his job. This time, she can be bolder, she adds. "They can't touch him anymore."

But they can touch her now, and they do, Risa says ruefully. "I value the friendships I've made with Frank's colleagues in the Philippine National Police, but things are different now that he's gone." In one of those rallies where Risa again took on the role of a patient negotiator—a carry-over of her former position as part of the government panel in peace talks with the leftist National Democratic Front (NDF)—a plainsclothesman materialized from the ranks of the police and suddenly grabbed her by the wrist, as if to arrest her. It was one of the few times when she lost her cool, she admits. She screamed at the man: "*Sino ka? Ano'ng karapatan mong hulihin ako? Nasan ang* name tag *mo? May* arrest warrant *ka ba?* (Who are you? How dare you arrest me? Where's your name tag? Your arrest warrant?)" she remonstrated. When the man melted back into the police line, Risa made straight for the commanding officer to demand the man's identity, but the officer was evasive. In the end, says Risa, the police charged her and several others in court. "We were unarmed and rallying peacefully but they dispersed us violently with water cannons. And they had the temerity to file charges against us, their victims!" The PNP has gone from bad to worse, she adds, "under the illegal and unconstitutional orders of GMA."

Recent loss

Though Risa is not about to milk the grieving widow image, her recent loss seems to have transformed her overnight into an opposition figure to reckon with. For the longest time, detractors have raised questions about her looks, class origin and choice of marriage partner. What's a tall, fair mestiza—a confessed *petiburges* married to a police officer—doing representing farmers, fisherfolk and the urban poor in Congress, people ask.

Marching with them on the streets and facing down water cannons for a start, that's what.

Ana Theresia Hontiveros Baraquel may not look the part, but she certainly walks the talk as one of three representatives of the broad-based coalition Akbayan, says fellow partylist representative Etta Rosales.

"Her heart has always been with the marginalized and underrepresented sectors of society," says this Deputy Minority Floor Leader on why the party chose the soft-spoken Risa as one of their nominees to the House of Representatives in the 2004 elections.

The young widow, who retains the fragile air of a sheltered *colegiala*, is far from being one, says Rosales. "In fact, she took a boat to the middle of nowhere in Palawan with members of an indigenous tribe to see for herself Danding Cojuangco's pearl farms that are being contested by fisherfolk. Then she delivered a privilege speech challenging Cojuangco's claims in a House teeming with his allies and relatives."

She's also very straightforward, observes Rosales, and would name names even when attacking the powers-that-be. She recalls how Risa questioned the Arroyo lands in Negros, whose distribution under the agrarian reform program has been delayed, even when seated right behind her was GMA son and Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo.

When then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger issued a letter condemning feminism, Risa, a member of the feminist group Pilipina, proved quick on the draw and delivered a privilege speech taking on the Catholic church's antiquated views on women. Other politicians might tiptoe around the church, a perceived powerbroker in these parts, but not Risa, chortles Rosales, who adds that when Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI, the outspoken representative got a lot of ribbing from her House colleagues about the possibility of her being excommunicated.

Risa has learned to take the initial doubts and skepticism in stride, including charges of her being "a clerico-fascist pseudo-social democrat" sleeping with the so-called enemy that some personalities from the extreme Left regularly level at her. "Well, I can't change my class origin, my looks or my marriage," shrugs this Ateneo Social Sciences graduate who, being an accomplished singer, once graced the stage as one of the Von Trapp children in the Repertory presentation of "The Sound of Music." Besides, she adds, "Class origin is not the determining factor in one's life. What's more important are the common human values that help us overcome political differences towards conflict resolution."

Girl power: Risa with daughters (from left) Sinta, Ianna and Issa; (below) with Frank and son Kiko in El Nido Palawan, summer of 2005

Though some still fault her for being too fair and smooth-skinned to represent the deprivations that sunburnt farmers and fishers regularly go through, Risa's looks, in fact work in their favor, observes Rosales. "Her candor is balanced by her gentle approach," she adds. "She's very sweet so people don't take offense easily and she can get away with a lot of things."

Admits Risa: "I'm calm and soft-spoken by nature. I deliberately stay away from painful words and strive to put things in a way that won't do violence to the other person without sounding self-righteous. It's part of my political discipline." Before a possible confrontation, she takes a few minutes to pray, then takes a deep breath and wades in. "My main objective is to stay standing and focus on what needs to be done."

Highest expression

Risa's activism started when she was in junior high school at the St. Scholastica's College, when she organized the Nuclear Disarmament Group. "Some of my mentors were national democrats," she recalls. From the nuclear issue, she became interested in liberation theology, "although even then, I did not share the view that armed struggle and revolution was the highest expression of political commitment. It was not for me."

She had just entered the Ateneo in 1983 "prepared to become a teacher, researcher and writer," when former Sen. Benigno Aquino was assassinated. The ferment that followed saw her getting involved with non-government groups and imbibing the politics of protest.

"My parents were initially apprehensive about us joining rallies," says Risa of her five younger siblings, broadcast journalist Pia Hontiveros among them. But martial law politics was something that her dad, lawyer Ramon Hontiveros, and fulltime homemaker mom had been quietly discussing with their peers around the dinner table even before 1983, and it wasn't long before they themselves joined their four daughters and two sons in the parliament of the streets. "You know how it was—there was curfew, and my parents' friends would stay in and they'd discuss politics, while us kids peered and listened from between the stairs' balustrade," recounts Risa. So even as an elementary student at the elite International School, she knew what was happening, she adds.

Alongside the activism that saw her joining Coalition for Peace, Pilipina, Pandayan and Akbayan, Risa did parallel work with media—from acting onstage to broadcasting to TV hosting. "Developing culture should be part of our struggle," she notes. "The arts is part of our deepest expression and re-creation of ourselves. It's always been part of our political culture." No wonder she thoroughly enjoyed—as part of the protest rallies against GMA's alleged election fraud—the launch of the "*'Wag Kang Manggo-Gloria*" CD in a concert at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo. "Sometimes when I get so exasperated with politics, I tell myself, *'balik na lang ako sa teatro* (I'd better get back to theater). I'd like to travel with a band, compose songs... It's like opening a new door for me or another window of opportunity."

Just as beckoning is the door to politics, which she reluctantly opened but now finds strangely inviting. "I went in to learn about the system and radicalize it, never to become part of it," says Risa. Despite grappling with some difficult political decisions—"The most challenging was voting House Speaker Jose de Venecia into another term because it was the party position," she says—she has realized that she's actually enjoying the experience. "I really love this life," confesses Risa. "It constantly challenges me to understand and analyze things, to see how I can participate—to witness and to remember." She also lives the creed that she heard columnist Randy David quote from political scientist Al Thusser. "He said that it is important for us to establish combat positions within the state." Of course, she adds, her stay in the political arena would depend strongly on her party's decision.

'Troubled relationship'

Her relationship with other party list groups could be better though, says Risa. "It's a troubled relationship," she admits. Although they all purport to represent the interest of the masses, "some parties still look at us as competitors." While they occasionally unite for tactical reasons, "there's a very strong sense of vanguardism, the feeling that only they have the correct vision and the right answers. I respect their views, but I fear that if they take power, they'd line us up against the wall and shoot us."

She's turning 40 this year and that's something she looks forward to, says Risa. "I was happier in my thirties than in my twenties. Now that I'll be 40 and presumably wiser, who knows what better things await me? I've earned every year and every line on my face, so I'm not afraid of growing older."

But she sorely misses her husband, and expects a quiet year ahead. "We want to go through the whole mourning process, the period of grief, and not miss out on anything," she says of her family, now composed of son Kiko, 13, and daughters Issa, 10, Ianna, 9, and Sinta, 4. She and Frank had been married for almost 15 years, and she had always discussed her decisions with him, says Risa. "Now I still talk to him before a major decision and I feel he's there, listening," she says of the PMAer who saw her picture in her school yearbook and was immediately smitten. He wrote her and she responded, and ended up as his date during the Philippine Military Academy's graduation hop, but only because by then, his commander-in-chief, President Marcos, had been ousted in the first People Power revolt.

When she's not in the session hall, Risa's probably with her kids visiting Frank at Himlayang Pilipino, or at Planet Dive, the dive resort she, her husband and several friends built in Batangas. Or probably burying her head in an Isabel Allende or Julia Alvarez novel.

If she had one free day, she'd spend part of it doing one thing that her children would like to do, then splurge the rest on herself, says Risa. "I'd wake up early... No, I think I'd sleep late. Then I'll have breakfast alone, read a book, watch a movie, listen to beautiful music, walk... No! dance in the rain. Go out of the house... or is it better to stay in, for a change? Hmmm..." she muses, savoring the fecund possibilities ahead. ◘

Turning 40 and looking to better times ahead

How A

...from page 3

In fact, he had ruined both knees playing soccer, undergoing surgery in one knee for a torn meniscus and in the other to drain fluid build-up.

After graduation, Choa returned home to work for a German trading company, but after a couple of years, he experienced an early midlife crisis. Out of the blue, he decided to become a chef.

"I quit my job and started cooking for Ilustrado Restaurant, which was owned by family friends," he says. Although he was largely self-taught in the culinary arts, Choa soon learned to bake and make desserts, even cooking for King Juan Carlos of Spain during his state visit to the Philippines.

Corporate life

Eventually, however, he decided to return to the corporate life, enrolling in Columbia University in New York City for his MBA.

"I had been indoctrinated that eventually, I would become an investment banker," he says. "But after graduation, I realized that I didn't have the personality of an investment banker, where it's all about the money. I had another midlife crisis."

After a stint in Hong Kong, Choa found a job with a British insurance firm, which posted him in Bangkok. It was there that a friend casually invited him to try a class in Bikram yoga.

"To be candid, what got me interested was the fact that in Thailand, because it's hot, the girls wear minimal clothing," he recalls. "But you can only look at them for so long, so after a while, I started focusing on the yoga."

Without realizing it, Choa started to reap the benefits. Not only did the practice rehabilitate his knees and correct his slight scoliosis, he soon discovered that he was more patient, less stressed out.

"The postures were always a challenge, but I had more stability," he says. "The improvements came quickly. I could feel my body changing. Physically, I became more lithe, I became stronger."

Unconsciously, the seed had been planted in his mind that this was something that could take off in Manila. His faith in Bikram's method was reinforced during a short stint in Singapore where there was no Bikram yoga studio. Choa tried other types of yoga, such as Ashtanga, but found that it didn't work for him as well as Bikram, so he returned to his old practice.

Own terms

By the time his contract was up for renewal, Choa had serious misgivings about the life of the corporate expat executive. He wanted to return home, but that would mean a drastic pay cut. After a period of soul searching, the idea of putting up his own yoga studio emerged.

"I decided that if I returned to Manila, it would be on my own terms," he said.

But that was easier said than done. In order to open his own yoga studio, Choa first had to be certified as a teacher. This meant undergoing a grueling two-month teacher training program in Los Angeles, under the tutelage of no less than Bikram Choudhury himself.

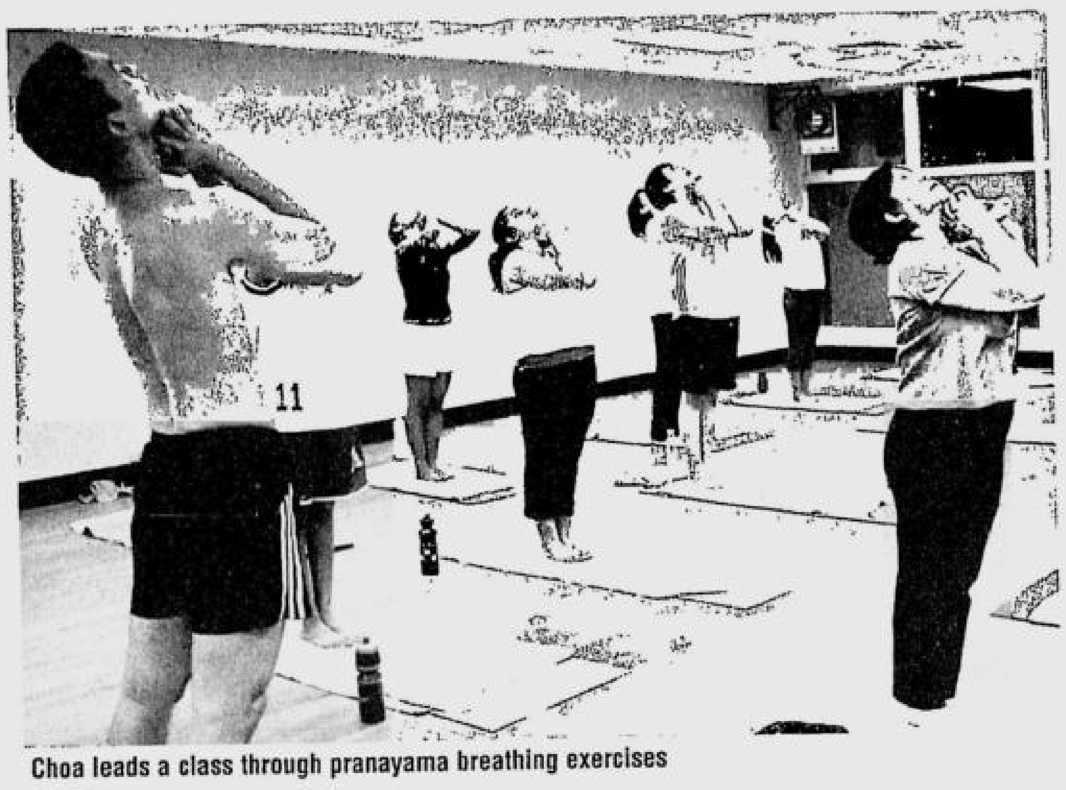
"It was nine weeks of training, attending two classes a day," he recalls. "In between we had lectures on anatomy, the philosophy of yoga and the Bikram series. It was a yoga boot camp. Three weeks into it, I was sick of yoga."

But he persisted, and in December 2004, Choa was finally certified. He began a period of internship in the Ann Arbor, Michigan Bikram Yoga Studio, honing his teaching skills for three months, before returning home to Manila, having persuaded two fellow teachers to come with him to open the first Bikram Yoga Studio in the Philippines.

"All of my savings are here," he says of the studio. "It's still untested, because yoga has been here for decades, but not in any mainstream sort of way. At the end of the day, it's still a business, because if it's not viable, it will close down. Hence, we have to do everything that any business does, such as build awareness."

And its practice might just change you in ways more than physical. Ask Tristan Choa.

For inquiries, contact Bikram Yoga Manila at tel. no. 889-1011 or search www.bikramyogamanila.com



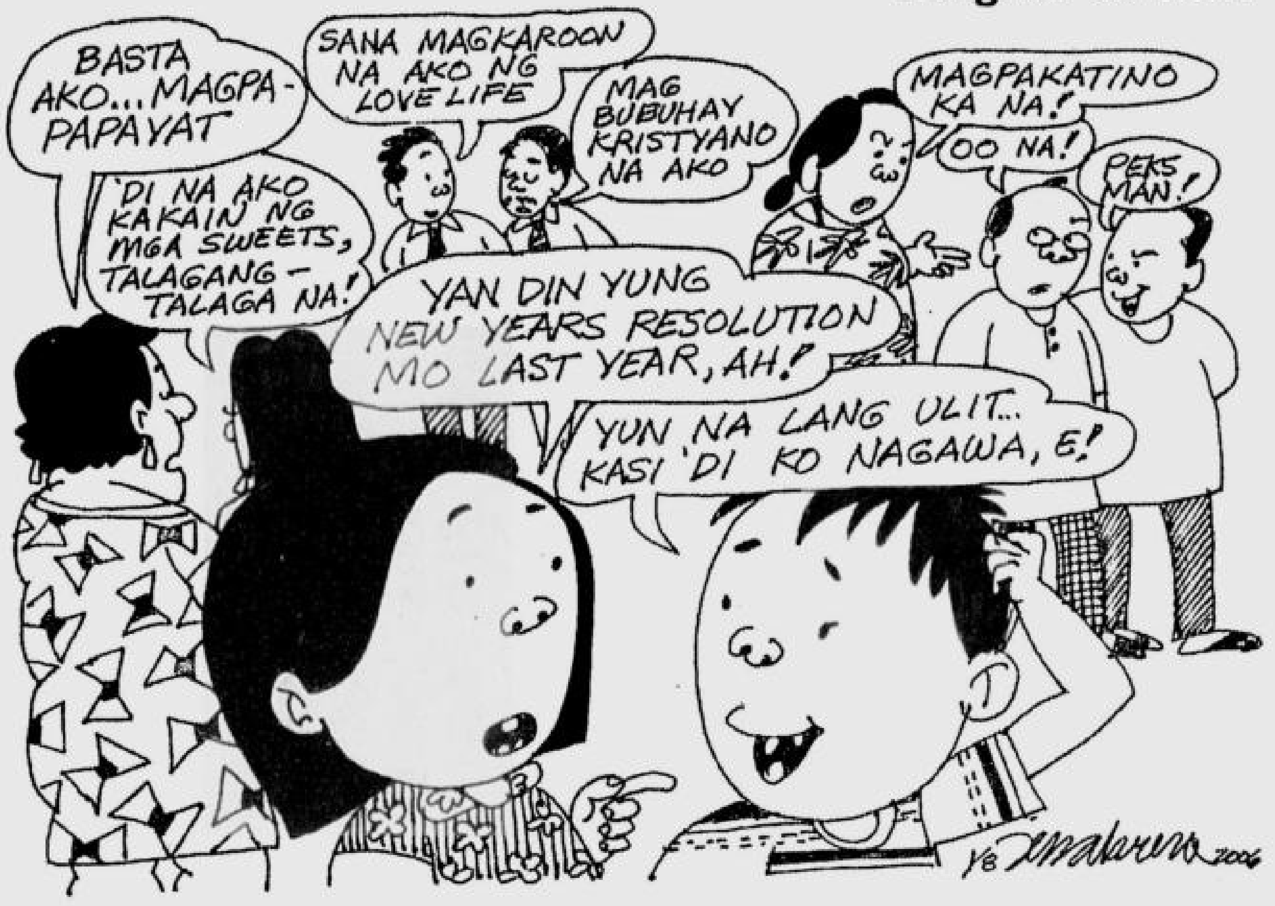
Choa leads a class through pranayama breathing exercises

Guru: With Bikram Choudhury himself after finishing his teacher training course

Pinoy Nga!

Jess Abrera

Pangako Sa Taon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SANA MAGKAROON NA AKO NG LOVE LIFE
MAG BUBUHAY KRISTYANO NA AKO
MAGPAKATINO KA NA!
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YAN DIN YUNG NEW YEARS RESOLUTION MO LAST YEAR, AH!
YUN NA LANG ULIT... KASI 'DI KO NAGAWA, E!
JESS ABRERA 2006

TV GUIDE

Sunday, January 15, 2006

Sayaw, Drama, Iba
Shall We Dance? The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
ABC Iba Tayo!
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		An October To Remember			
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Pinoy Big Brother Buzz		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Search For A Star In A Million	Rated K		TV Patrol World		Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN		Once A Thief				E Buzz	Samsung Sports World	Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	The World's Most Shocking Moments Caught On Tape		CSI Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		CSI NY (Season I)		CSI Miami (Season 3)	
Cartoon Network	X-Men Evolution	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Tom & Jerry Show		Codename Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teen Titans	Samurai Jack	The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Powerpuff Girls	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Dexter's Laboratory	Crush Gear Nitro	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Superman The Animated Series	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Harvey Birdman (11:45PM)
Cinema One				Singles				Milan				TBA				Feng Shui			
Cinemax	Mad Max			Flashdance (4:15 PM)			Lost Treasure (5:45 PM)			Anger Management				The Snow Walker				Just Cause (10:55PM)	
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	World News	Design 360	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News	MainSail	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	Business Traveller	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		The Greatest Ever Tanks		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		Mythbusters				Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie McGuire	Brandy & Mr Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pool Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				UCA All-Star Cheerleading Camp		Track & Field Athletics [illegible] Outdoor GP '05				Sportscenter Asia	NFL Playoffs AFC Divisional Playoff						Table Tennis '05 Killerspin
ETC		Veronica Mars		American Dreams 2		Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 2		Rated Oh! 3	The Insider Weekend	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Nip/Tuck			
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation Deep Prayer	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Starstruck 3		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	The Nanny	Winter Solstice				Winter Solstice (5:20 PM)			To The Ends Of The Earth (7:10 PM)				Jane Doe Till Death Do Us Part			Last Call (10:35PM)		
HBO				Something's Gotta Give					Beverly Hills Ninja			The Making Of Rome	Outbreak				Radio		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop	Mr Taxman	Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		[illegible] On Primetime Weekend				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Family Guy	Dr Katz	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				South Park	Dr. Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Crimes & Misdemeanors				Clean House	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits		Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	MTV Hits	Viva La Bam	Pimp My Ride	Get Hitch'd	MTV Screen	The 70's House	Spring Break	MTV Presents				Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		No Borders				[illegible] Wildlife Adventure	Monkey Business	Amazing Moments		Taiwan To The World		Megastructures		Microkillers Week		No Borders			
NBN				Paco Park Presents		Kamao Sa Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			Inter-Aksyon Sa Bayan	Battle Royale		The Sports List	Go For Gold		Business & Leisure		Unlimited Diving
Nickelodeon	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Catscratch	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Dark Oracle	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Paano Ba Ang Mangarap?				Baby Tsina				Nardong Toothpick				Side A Acoustic				Kulimlim
QTV		Baywalk		Joan Of Arcadia		Ginang Fashionista		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		JAG		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN				Sure Hits	The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		Sony Bmg Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports		Watson's Champions Chall Days								NBA Game Grizzlies @ Spurs					Flanders Olympic Gala				
Sports Plus				ACC Basketball Texas Southern @ Boston College				World Game		Raceworld		Bay Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge				Sony Open In Hawaii Day3			
Star Movies	Total Recall (2:45 PM)				Nutty Professor II: The Klumps (4:45PM)				Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl					Raising Helen				Alex & Emma	
Star World		Man Vs Beast/ Scrubs (Series 2)		North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle (Series 5)	The Kumars At No 42	Little Britain (Series 3)		Koffee With Karan		Friends		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle (Series 5)
Studio 23								Nginig		Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Chefs On The Go (10:45PM)		Buffy The Vampire Slayer

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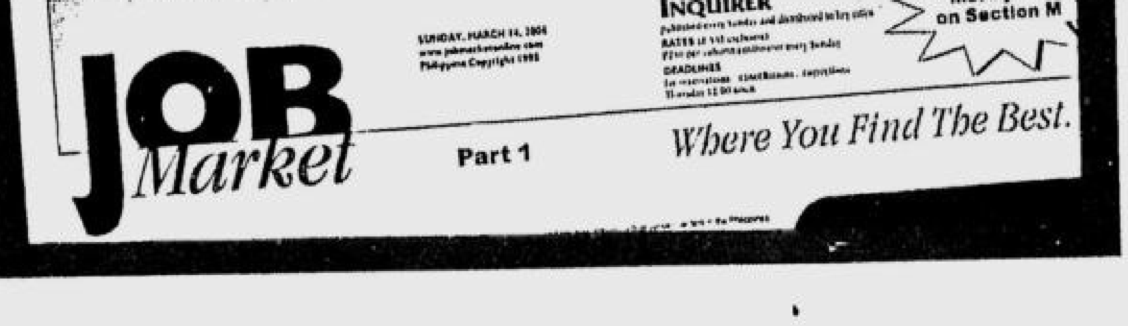
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First Person

by Arlyn dela Cruz

Finding the Man Who Suffered the Unkindest Cut of All

The author, a broadcast journalist, was tasked with helping to positively identify notorious bandit Kumander Putol

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I crossed the country's three regions to pursue a story about a bandit wanted by the most powerful country in the world. I ended up with the story of a one-armed villager whose only excess was a passion for cockfights

IT WAS one of those nights when sleep wouldn't come to Philippine National Police Director-General Arturo Lomibao.

And now here he was, the chief of the country's national police, trying to catnap while flying to Dipolog City, wondering what he would tell the President if his worst fears came true.

This was the day he would meet the man his people had told him was *Kumander* Putol of the Abu Sayyaf, supposedly captured in Zamboanga-Sibugay after years of manhunt, a bandit with a huge bounty on his head, wanted both in the Philippines and in the United States.

Director Lomibao had taken me with him on this flight to help him find out if the trophy he had was genuine. After all, I had known Putol (real name: Radulan Sahiron) well, having interviewed him several times since I first met him in 1992.

The day before, a Sunday, Lomibao had called President Macapagal-Arroyo to tell her they had their quarry. She immediately announced the capture to the nation.

News source

Hours before Ms Arroyo went on television, while I was on my way to Olongapo chasing the story of a Filipino woman allegedly raped by US Marines, I got a call from a police major who had been a long-time news source. We hadn't been in touch for months.

"Would you recall which arm of Radulan Sahiron was amputated?" he asked. "Was it the right or the left?"

The journalist in me sensed a big story was in the wind. Why, all of a sudden, would he call to ask about Sahiron's missing arm?

"For records and profiling purposes only, I'm building a profile on Sahiron," said the major.

I was incredulous. "Have you got him?"

"Oh, c'mon, Arlyn, you just want a scoop. You know I would call you if there is one. Just tell me, right or left?"

I told him I thought it was the right arm.

But he wasn't done.

Does he speak Tagalog well? Is he fat?

That really hit me. Could they have really got one of a group of five Abu Sayyaf leaders wanted by the most powerful country in the world for $5 million?

I said Sahiron was not fluent in Tagalog but was a full Tausug.

Minutes later, my cellphone rang again. It was a respected, retired general.

"Can you help me? This is urgent," the almost hysterical voice said. "I can't contact Art (Lomibao). Did he change phone numbers? I must speak to him ASAP because we just got him 30 minutes ago!"

You mean Sahiron? I said.

"How did you know? My men just got him and Art doesn't know yet!"

I told him about the call I just got.

"Okay, just forward to me the new number of Art if you have it so he would be briefed about this arrest," the voice said.

It turned out that Lomibao was airborne at the time. Thirty minutes after the ex-general rang off, I was talking with Lomibao.

From him I learned that an elite team had bagged "Sahiron."

"But there will still be a debriefing. Maybe Monday, the President will announce it," he said. "It's Boogie (Sr. Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza), the ground commander, whom you should congratulate."

Soon, I heard Ms Arroyo on radio announcing the capture.

In Olongapo, I pursued my other story, finding fresh leads about the rape, dismayed to hear that "politics inside the Subic Bay Freeport" was playing a role in the case.

The morning after, I found out I had several missed calls from the Chief PNP, and text messages, too. A Lomibao aide took my return call.

"I was told to ask you if you want an exclusive interview with Sahiron," the aide began. "It has to be now, in Dipolog, we're leaving at 10, PAL flight."

I said I couldn't make it to Manila on time.

"A PNP chopper will fetch you. Just tell me where you want to be picked up," he said. "This really has to be done, Arlyn… It's a big favor, Chief PNP says."

I sensed they had called me not for a one-on-one with Sahiron but to make an identification. My mind was racing: They must have the wrong guy.

Half an hour later, a chopper was whirring down Subic airport. I was the lone passenger. It flew me straight to the domestic hangar of the PNP in Metro Manila. Then I was whisked off to the Centennial Airport for the flight to Dipolog.

Lomibao was a man who talked straight.

"I couldn't sleep," he said. "I have this nagging thought in my head that the team there in Mindanao got the wrong man because they could not give me the answer to one question.

"All I asked was: Has he admitted that he is Radulan Sahiron? *Paliguy-ligoy* (They were evasive). I have to see for myself, and I wanted you to come because you can't be wrong since you have known him a long time. It is not the time to wrangle about whether it was his right or left arm that was amputated. It's the man's face that would tell."

Different look

With Lomibao was Director Simeon Dizon, intelligence directorate chief.

I was told an officer on Mendoza's team had texted Dizon, saying the man they had arrested looked different from a Sahiron photo shown on late night news Saturday.

I could sense that Lomibao, who had kept his eyes closed during the flight although I knew he was awake, was already thinking what he could do if it turned out they made a mistake.

On touchdown in Dipolog I climbed into a pickup. Mendoza jumped in, too. He said the PNP's role was simply to execute the arrest quickly to preclude any chance of "the target" escaping.

He introduced me to our driver, whom he said had been a trusted "asset" of the ex-general who desperately wanted Lomibao's number. It was that asset's perseverance that led to the arrest, Mendoza said.

The driver bragged about how they had been patient for almost two years and waited for the right time to move.

Our ride ended at a secluded hotel. PNP operatives in civilian and combat clothes milled about, looking worn out.

Lomibao, Dizon and Mendoza raced up to a second floor room.

They insisted I go in first.

Deliberately, I shut my eyes when I walked in. I wanted to make sure that when I opened them again, it would be the man whom I would see first—and no other.

There he was, sitting in a chair, a dusky man with a paunch, blindfolded, in shorts, starkly half-naked.

They had deliberately taken his shirt off so I would see at once that he had only one arm. The arm no longer there had been sawed off up to the armpit.

But he was not the man I first saw in the Abu Sayyaf stronghold 13 years ago. The face was different, and this man before me had a mustache.

Of course, it was the left arm that was missing.

Knowing that what I was about to say would crush the heart of every man in the room, I simply said in a low voice: "*Hindi siya si* Sahiron (He is not Sahiron)."

Refusing to accept defeat, one officer showed Lomibao a picture of Sahiron he had kept on his cellphone. He pointed to "similarities" between the face on his phone and the half-naked man.

I said, "*Pango at lapad ang ilong ng taong ito. Si Sahiron, matangos na manipis* (This man's nose is flat and wide. Sahiron's nose is sharp and narrow)."

Mendoza leaned his head on the wall. He looked suddenly exhausted. The other officers were dumbfounded.

Quickly taking command, Lomibao said: "A mistake is a mistake. We have to correct it by returning the man to his family. No harm done, boys… Let's all see the positive side of this operation."

The asset who drove us from the airport came forward. Lomibao was incisive. Did you ask other people, maybe the neighbors or the relatives, if this is Radulan Sahiron?

The asset said: "He is known in the area as *Kumander* Putol and the people call him *Kumander* Putol."

Lomibao pressed on: "Did you know before you became DPA (Deep Penetration Asset) if it was the right or the left arm of *Kumander* Putol that was amputated? Did you have a picture of him?"

The man said: "The fact is he is known as *Kumander* Putol and he keeps traveling. Once, we even saw him with several firearms. There were always meetings in his house."

The driver-DPA pinned me with his eyes.

Another officer approached Lomibao and said that nothing in the debriefing indicated the man was connected to the Abu Sayyaf: He was engaged in trading and loved cock derbies.

On a ferry taking us to Cebu for the long trip home, Lomibao called Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and told him.

Ermita said: "Was it Arlyn who told you that? *Baka naman na-mi-*mislead *kayo* (Could it be that you are being misled)?"

No motive

"No, sir," Lomibao said. "Even then, we had doubts. We just needed validation and Arlyn can't be wrong. She has no motive to mislead us, Sir. I can assure you that."

Lomibao next called the President. He called her several times. Her phone just kept on ringing.

At around 6 p.m., while in Tagbilaran port, Lomibao finally talked to Ms Arroyo.

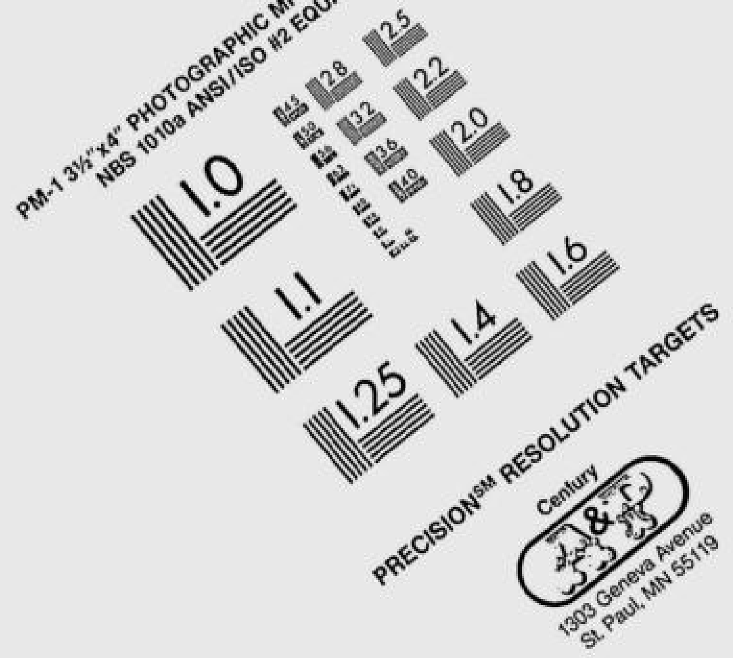
"I am sorry Ma'am, but we will do better next time."

She coolly accepted the apology, I was told. No harsh words, no tantrums, no lashing of the tongue. Instead, she instructed Lomibao to make sure the fight against terror was not affected by this "setback."

I filed my report to the INQUIRER by text messages while on the boat. It had been a long, long day. I crossed the country's three regions, traveled by land, sea and air to pursue a story about a man wanted by the most powerful country in the world, only to end up with a story about a one-armed villager whose few joys in the world included betting on cockfights.

I hit the bed at 2 in the morning, several questions still ringing in my mind: What if they did not get the man alive? What if Lomibao did not entertain doubts and simply relied on the information from field assets? What if they immediately presented the man to the President without making the necessary verification?

Turning over in my bed, I suddenly realized I didn't even bother to ask the poor man how he lost his left arm.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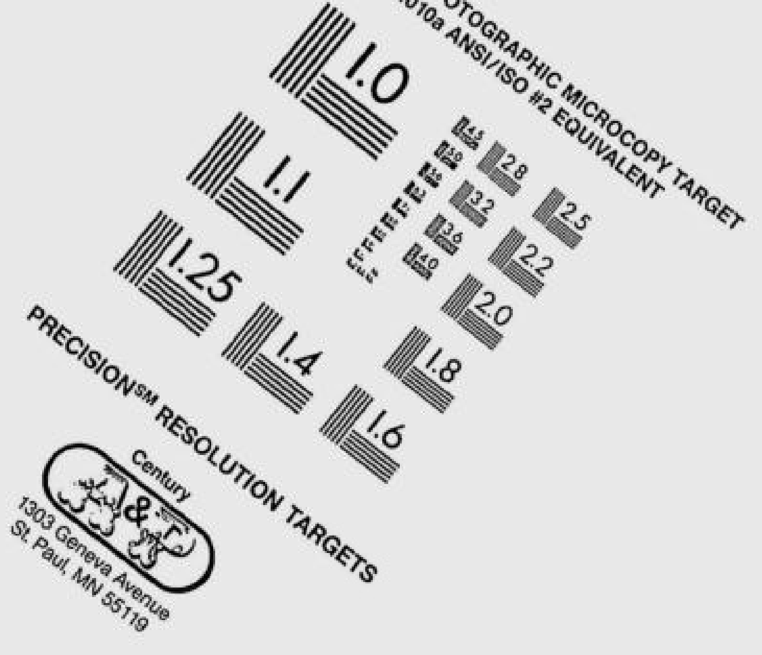
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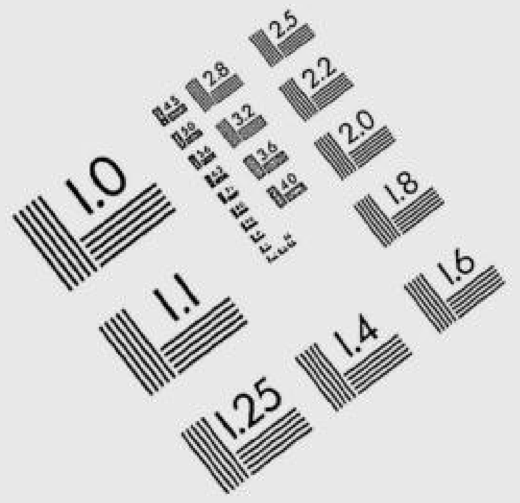
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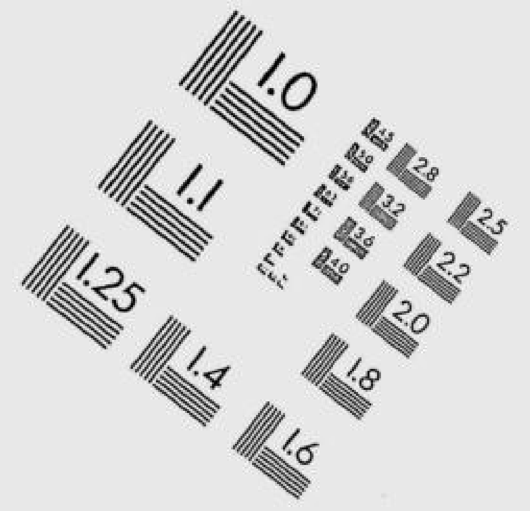
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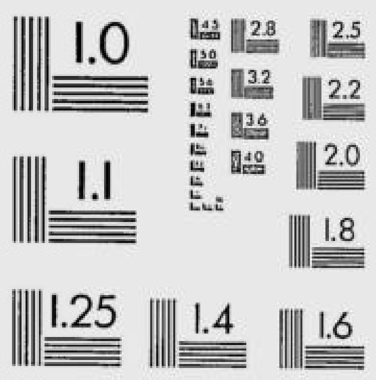
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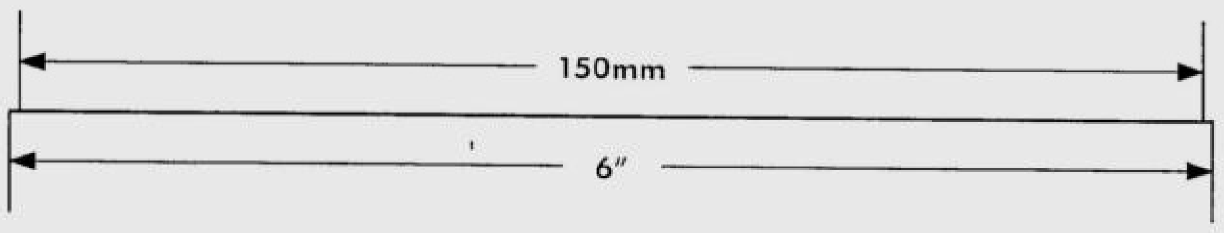

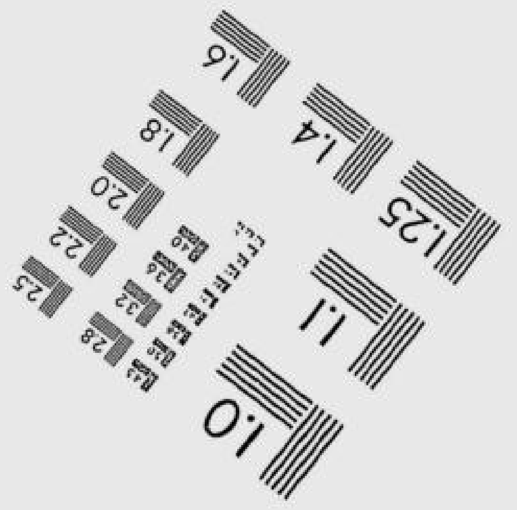
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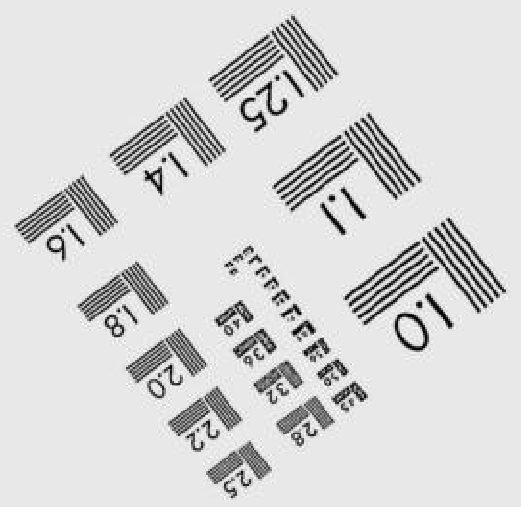
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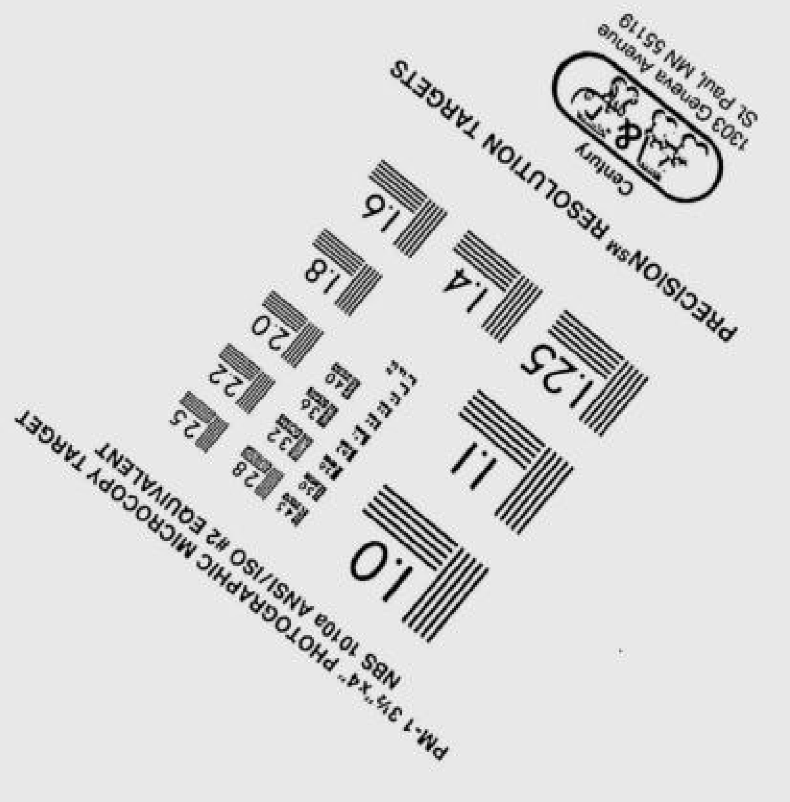
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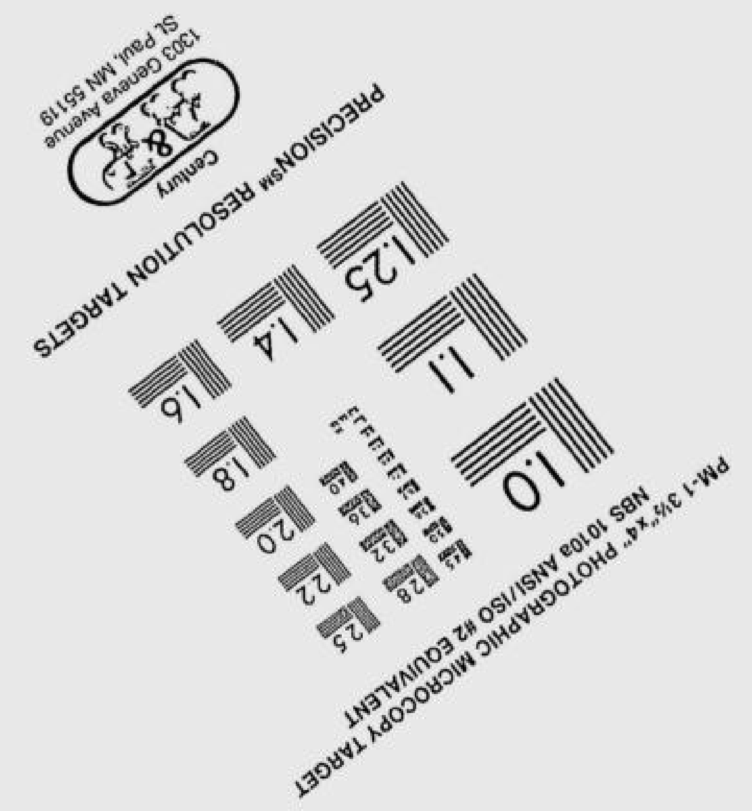
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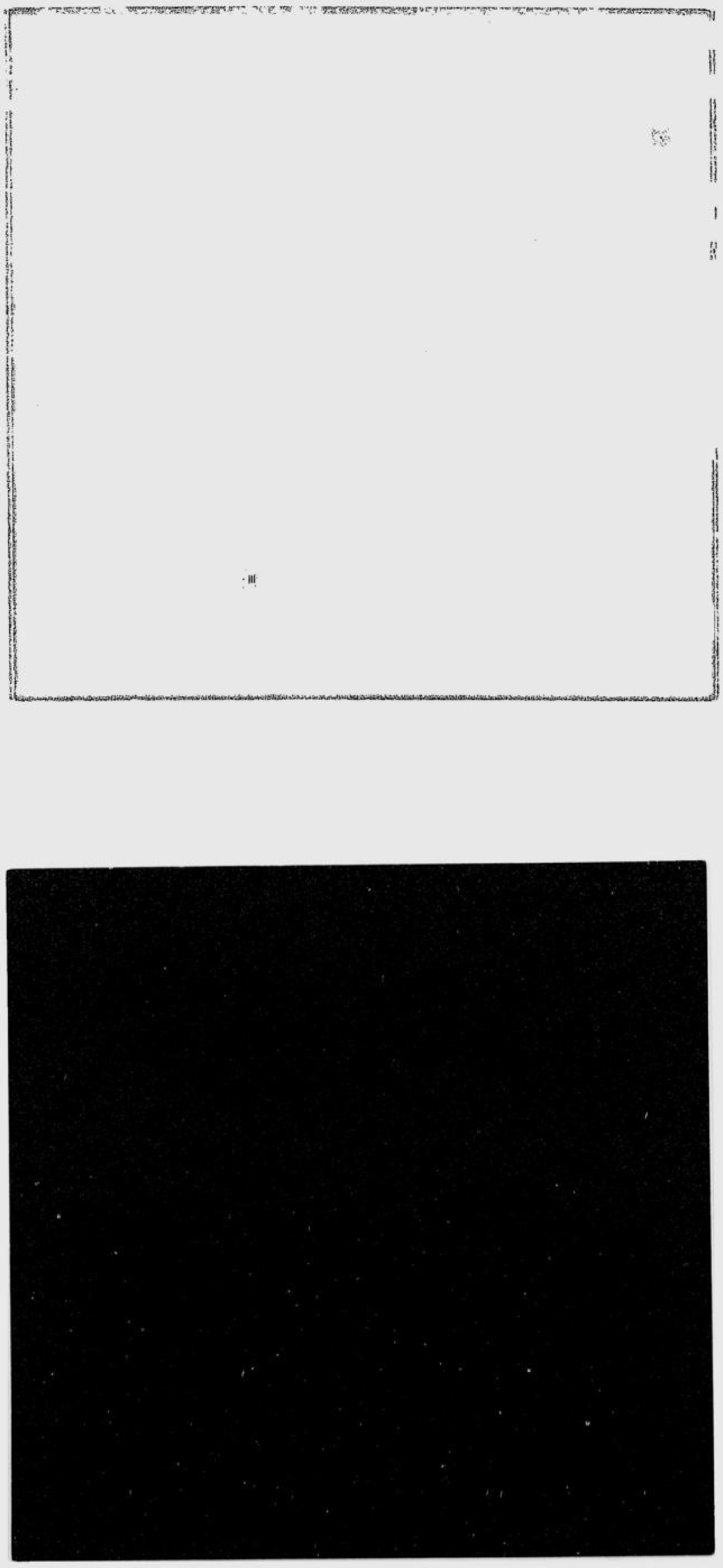

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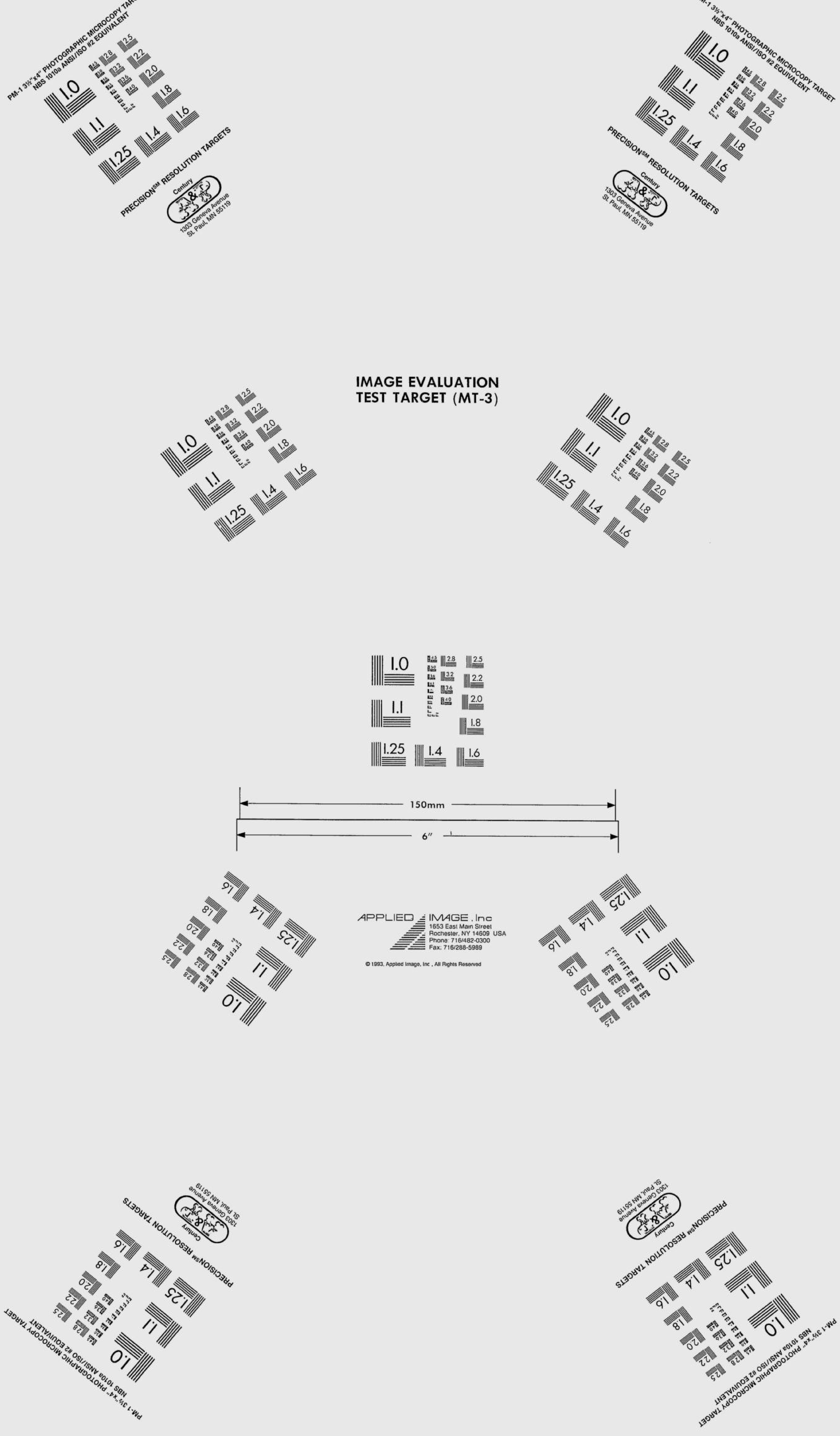
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